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FBIS-NES-89-048 CONTENTS *14 March 1989*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 Mar Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Delivers Speech 13 Mar *[SPA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Abu Nidal Threatens To Kill 3 PLO Officials *[Beirut Voice of Lebanon]* 4
  Further on Threat *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leadership *[KUNA]* 4
'Arafat 'Prepared To Go to Jerusalem' *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 12-13 Mar]* 4
  PFLP Condemns Statement *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
  PPSF Assails Remarks *[Damascus Radio]* 5
'Arafat Meets Arab League UN Envoy in UAE *[WAKH]* 5
'Arafat Urges More Organization for Palestinians *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
'Arafat Discusses Peace, International Moves *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
PLO Sends Message to UN on Ansar-3 Detainees *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
PLO Issues Statement on Arab Summit, 'Uprising' *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Khalaf on Egyptian Role, Dialogue With U.S. *[MENA]* 7
Hawatimah Views PRC Role in Mideast Process *[Beijing XINHUA]* 7
Hurani Criticizes U.S. Positions on Talks *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 9 Mar]* 7
  On Dialogue With U.S. *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Mar]* 8
PLO Denies 'Syrian' Claims on Sabotaged Car *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 8
PLO Urges 'Preliminary' Conference in Cairo *[MENA]* 9
Editorial Cautions Against Separate Deals *[Amman AL-QUDS 27 Feb]* 9
Palestine National Fund Concludes Meeting *[KUNA]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Libya

Basic People's Congresses Issue Resolutions *[Tripoli TV]* 11

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Addresses Constituent Assembly 13 Mar *[MENA]* 24
  Further on Address *[Khartoum Radio]* 25
Islamic Front Refuses Government Participation *[SUNA]* 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iranian Envoy Ahmad Jannati Pays 2-Day Visit 26
  Received by Amir *[Kuwait Radio]* 26
  Meets Foreign Minister *[KUNA]* 26
  IRNA Reports Jannati Visit 26
  Departs for Bahrain 12 Mar *[KUNA]* 26

PDRY

Government Announces Relations With Colombia *[Aden Radio]* ... 26
Soviet Cooperation Delegation Departs 4 Mar *[Aden Radio]* ... 27
Palestinian Official Arrives in Aden for Talks *[Aden Radio]* ... 27

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Receives DFLP Official 8 Mar *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 27
Al-Asbahi, Delegation Return From Baghdad *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 27
British Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 7 Mar *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 27
    Received by Al-'Arashi *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 28
Iranian Official Arrives in Sanaa 8 Mar *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 28
    Further on Jannati Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 28
    Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Mar *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 28

IRAQ

Iranians Fire At 11th Division Units 13 Mar *[INA]* ... 29
    UNIIMOG Investigating *[WAKH]* ... 29
Saddam Husayn Discusses 'Democracy' Policy, Iran *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Mar]* ... 29

ISRAEL

Arens Comments on Meetings With Bush, Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 40
    U.S. Dialogue With PLO Raised *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 41
'Tension-Reducing' Measures 'Likely' in April *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Mar]* ... 41
3 Likud Members Reportedly Negotiated With PLO *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Mar]* ... 42
Shamir Discounts 'Arafat Offer To Visit Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 42
Rabin on Infiltrations, Dialogue With PLO *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 42
    Notes Increase in 'Terrorism' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 43
SLA Soldier Killed, 2 Hurt in S. Lebanon Blast *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
Egyptian Officials at Tabah for Transfer Details *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
Shamir Greets Arriving 'Prisoner of Zion' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
Peres: No Alternative to Palestinians Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
Palestinian Press Office Reopens in Athens *[HA'ARETZ 13 Mar]* ... 44
Cabinet Approves Weizman's Trip to Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
Meridor: Planned Settlements To Be Established *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
Civil Administration Head Erez Meets Locals *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
Galilee Arabs Resume Aid for Territories *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 44
Employees Ordered To Reject PLO Payments *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Mar]* ... 44
Islamic Movement Leaflet Attacks Israel, PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
Successful Appeals on Detention Declining *[HADASHOT 12 Mar]* ... 45
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories ... 45
    Arab Sources Report Casualties *[HADASHOT 14 Mar]* ... 45
    2 Wounded in Gaza Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
    Arab Youth Dies of Wounds *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
    1 Israeli, 3 Gazans Injured *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
    Gaza, Rafah Residents Sentenced *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
    House of Youth Sealed *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 46
Economic Difficulties Foreseen Due to 'Uprising' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 46

LEBANON

Al-Huss Appeals for End To Wave of Violence *[Beirut Radio]* ... 47
Army Issues Statement on Security in Beirut *[RFL]* ... 47
Beirut International Airport Under Shellfire *[Voice of National Resistance]* ... 47
PSP Installs Machineguns in Fishing Boats *[RFL]* ... 47
Army, PSP Clash in Beirut Commercial Areas *[RFL]* ... 47
    'Escalated' to Port Areas *[RFL]* ... 47
    E. Beirut, Port Areas Shelled *[VOL]* ... 47

RFL on Fighting in Port Area 48
W. Beirut Under 'Bombardment' *[Beirut Radio]* 48
18 Killed, 60 Wounded *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Amal Fires at Beirut Port *[VOL]* 48
Amal, PSP 'Exacerbate' Crisis *[VOL]* 48
Lebanese Forces, Army on Alert in E. Beirut *[Voice of National Resistance]* 49
W. Beirut Syrian Artillery Emplacement Destroyed *[RFL]* 49
Council of Ministers Protests Syrian 'Pressures' *[VOL]* 49
Syrians Reportedly Declare Maximum State of Alert *[RFL]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Battle for Jalalabad Continues *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Rebels Cut Off Route To Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 50
Pakistanis Die in 12 Mar Battle *[BAKHTAR]* 50
'Dozens' of Helicopters Land *[AFP]* 51
Nangarhar Governor Interviewed *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Military Situation in Provinces Reported 53
Laghman Arms Convoy Destroyed *[Kabul Radio]* 53
180 Killed in 3 Provinces *[BAKHTAR]* 53
2 U.S. 'Advisers' Reported Dead *[Kabul Radio]* 53
15 Killed in Qandahar Clash *[BAKHTAR]* 54
'Ulomi, Karmand Brief Media on Military Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 54
Supply Convoys Continue Arriving in Kabul *[BAKHTAR]* 54
Pakistani Charge Summoned Over 'Invasion' *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Wakil Protests to UN on Pakistani 'Violations' *[Kabul Radio]* 54
U.S. 'Expansionist' Aims in Region Decried *[BAKHTAR]* 55
5 Nations To Provide Engineers To Clear Mines *[AFP]* 55
Loya Jirgah Protest on Opposition Government *[BAKHTAR]* 55
Hikmatyar Thanks Bahrain for Recognition *[WAKH]* 56
Fails To Get Iranian Recognition *[BAKHTAR]* 56
Uzbek Chief Denounces Government *[IRNA]* 57
Mujahidin Justice Minister on Government Plans *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 12 Mar]* 57
Commentary Urges PDPA Members To Defend Nation *[BAKHTAR]* 58
Mongolia's Batmonh Sends Message to Najibullah *[BAKHTAR]* 58
Kapisa District To Become Province *[Kabul Radio]* 58

Bangladesh

Indian Embassy Denies Troops Massing on Border *[Beijing XINHUA]* 59
PRC Army Chief Ends 'Goodwill' Visit 13 Mar *[Dhaka International]* 59
Communist Party Derides Ershad's Election Offer *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 20 Feb]* 59

India

Air India To Use Soviet Aircraft, Pilots *[Delhi TV]* 59
Spokesman Reaffirms Stance on Sri Lankan Accord *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Sri Lanka's Northeast Chief Minister Arrives *[Delhi Radio]* 60
CPI Secretary Inaugurates 14th Party Congress *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Election Commission on Party Registration *[Delhi Radio]* 60
15 kg of Heroin Seized in Punjab; 2 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Iran

Syria Accuses U.S. Envoys of 'Incompatible' Acts *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Iraq Violates Cease-Fire in Southern Fronts *[IRNA]* 61
Velayati Sends Letter to UN Head on Iraq *[KUNA]* 61
Proposes April Peace Talks *[IRNA]* 61
Prisoners Released Under Khomeyni's Amnesty *[Tehran Radio]* 62

Mojahedin-e Khalq Releases 644 Prisoners of War *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 62
Paper Assails 'Vacillation' Over Afghan Issue *[IRNA]* 62
ICO Urged To Ignore Interim Afghan Government *[IRNA]* 63
Majlis Asks ICO To Put 'Satanic Verses' on Agenda *[Tehran TV]* 63
ABRAR Assesses Participation in ICO Session *[IRNA]* 63
Taskhiri Heads Delegation to ICO Meeting *[IRNA]* 64
Further Reportage, Reaction to Rushdie's Book 64
    Khomeyni Thanks Muslims *[Tehran TV]* 64
    Judges Support Edict *[Tehran TV]* 64
    ETTELA'AT 25 Feb Editorial 64
    Press on Boycott of UK *[IRNA]* 65
    UK Media Reaction to 'Crisis' *[IRNA]* 65
    RESALAT Calls For Unity *[28 Feb]* 66
Pakistan To Represent Country's Interests in UK *[Tehran International]* 66
Editorial on Soviet Middle East Peace Efforts *[ETTELA'AT 22 Feb]* 67
Delegation Leaves for Budapest IPU Session *[IRNA]* 68
Khamene'i Gives Speech on 'Cultural Crusade' *[Tehran Radio]* 68
    Further on President's Remarks *[Tehran Radio]* 68
IRNA Cites 'Administrative Violations' 69
Cabinet Discusses Reconstruction Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Majlis Member Interviewed on Budget Bill *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Report on Majlis Deputies' 25 Feb Speeches *[RESALAT 23 Feb]* 70
Political, Women's Groups Legally Recognized *[IRNA]* 72
81 Drug Smugglers Hanged in Tehran, Other Cities *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Large Narcotics, Gold, Carpets Haul Announced *[IRNA]* 73
Esfahan-Shahr-e Kord Bridge on Verge of Collapse *[Tehran Radio]* 73

Pakistan

Punjab Chief Minister Gets Vote of Confidence *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Chairman Says Senate 'Cannot Be Dissolved' *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
U.S. Position on Atomic Program Examined *[HAIDER 26 Feb]* 73
Cultural Exchange Program Signed With DPRK *[Islamabad Radio]* 74
Cabinet Approves Narcotics Control Division *[Islamabad Radio]* 74
Abortive Attempt on Altaf Hussain's Life Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 74

14 Mar Middle East and South Asia Review

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[Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The Army Command in West Beirut accused its counterpart in East Beirut of causing a "human massacre" by shelling "residential" areas in the western part of the city 14 March. The statement, broadcast by Beirut radio, added that over 18 people were killed and 60 others wounded in the bombardment, which targeted rush-hour traffic in areas free of artillery emplacements and illegal ports.

However, a military source cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon denied that the shelling was targeted at residential areas, stating that it was directed at artillery emplacements that had shelled residential areas and ports in East Beirut and Juniyah. The source claimed that a Syrian artillery emplacement in the Al-Awza'i area of West Beirut was destroyed in the shelling. Voice of Lebanon radio likewise announced that artillery positions in East Beirut were returning fire in response to attacks from Amal Movement and PSP emplacements. The Army Command in East Beirut later issued a statement over Radio Free Lebanon accusing the Syrians of intervening directly in the fighting on 14 March: the Syrian Army was reportedly firing shells and rockets at the Defense Ministry and other military targets. Syrian forces also went on a "maximum state of alert" throughout Lebanon, the radio said.

Although the East Beirut authorities rescinded their decision to close Beirut International Airport, traffic at the airport was again suspended on 14 March due to the security deterioration, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Israel

Israel and the United States have a mutual understanding that coordination of their positions is a prerequisite for a successful peace initiative, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told Jerusalem radio after his talks in the White House. Although the two sides addressed principles rather than details, Arens said, they did agree on one detail: the important role Jordan must fulfill in the peace process. Jordan is a "key player" and steps must be taken to involve it in the peace process. Arens also noted that Israel agrees with the U.S. desire to lower the level of violence in the territories, but he said the problem is how to achieve this.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, stated in an earlier interview with the radio that any proposal to hold indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO through U.S. mediation is "unacceptable." Israel is "not prepared" to accept the PLO as a partner to any deal, he said, and it is "not interested" in anything involving Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and the PLO.

However, YEDI'OT AHARONOT subsequently reported that three Likud personalities recently met with PLO officials in Tunis in an unsuccessful attempt to reach an agreement on ending the intifadah (uprising). Citing MK Shulamit Aloni, who said she received the report from a senior U.S. source, the paper indicated that the visit was undertaken with the knowledge of some Likud leaders, but not necessarily the prime minister. The Israelis offered a number of concessions in exchange for an end to the intifadah, but no agreement was reached because they could not promise Israeli recognition of the PLO.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal threatened to kill Nabil Sha'th and two other PLO officials who recently met with Israeli parliamentarians in New York, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

The U.S. decision to grant a visa to PLO officials to attend a conference on the Middle East was described by Nabil Sha'th as a "positive" step, according to Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's recently expressed willingness to visit Jerusalem for talks was condemned by a PFLP spokesman in Damascus as implying "capitulationist tendencies", Radio Monte Carlo reported.

ICO Conference in Riyadh

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, chairman of the ICO foreign ministers' conference, stressed that the Israeli occupation of the "sacred" land of Palestine continues to be the most important issue facing the ICO, SPA reported. On the Afghan issue, the prince expressed appreciation for the Soviet withdrawal and urged the USSR to continue to play a "positive role" in working to heal differences. He called on the ICO to recognize the interim mujahidin government.

In other speeches reported by SPA, the ICO secretary general urged the regime in Kabul to "allow itself to be replaced by a government which embodies the deep-rooted aspirations of the Afghan people." He also stressed the need to consolidate the Iran-Iraq cease-fire. The Arab League secretary general told the conferees that Islam will not be harmed by material which "evil tongues are trying to propagate about the Islamic faith and the Arabic-Islamic civilization."

In a commentary on the conference cited by IRNA, Iran's KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL advised the ICO against recognizing the interim government of Afghan mujahidin as it is "not considered a broad-based one" by many mujahidin factions themselves.

However, the TEHRAN TIMES criticized Iran's "vacillation" in recognizing the interim mujahidin government, suggesting that this is not in the interests of the Islamic Republic, according to IRNA. The paper urged Iran and Pakistan to cooperate on the Afghan issue and to prevent other countries from acting as "big brothers" to the mujahidin.

As for the Salman Rushdie issue, the head of the Iranian delegation at the ICO conference told a Kuwaiti paper that Iran is taking part in the meeting to invite Islamic countries to take a "decisive stand" against any attack on Islamic sanctities, IRNA noted.

Afghanistan

More than two dozen Afghan military helicopters landed in Jalalabad 14 March, AFP reported. The agency added that it is not clear whether the helicopters brought reinforcements or are preparing to evacuate troops. Islamabad radio reported earlier that mujahidin fighters had cut the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, the "most important" supply route to Kabul from Jalalabad.

Kabul radio claimed that two U.S. advisers were killed during recent mopping-up operations by the Afghan Army in Qandahar Province. The radio also noted that the Kabul authorities lodged another protest with Pakistan over the latter's "substantially increased interference" in Afghan border provinces.

The mujahidin "could easily destroy the hireling regime" in Kabul, but in order to minimize losses to civilian life and property they are working for the "peaceful" fall of all Afghan cities, declared Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the mujahidin interim government, at a press conference in Riyadh reported by SPA.

Sudan

The National Islamic Front (NIF) "will not participate" in the new government led by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, according to AL-SUDANI daily cited by SUNA. The NIF took this decision because Al-Mahdi's 13 March statement to the Constituent Assembly "did not include implementation of Islamic shari'a laws," the daily said. According to MENA, Al-Mahdi stressed in his statement that the Muslim majority is "anxious" that non-Muslims should have "full civil rights." Al-Mahdi also stressed that the trade unions "must commit themselves to ending strikes" if they are to join the new government.

Kuwait

The United States continues to be "arrogant and pushy" and its policies will leave it "without a single Arab friend," AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM warned 12 March. The paper claimed that there are "new trends" in the U.S. Administration to "put pressure" on Egypt and to "confuse it politically and economically" as a "punishment" for its stand on the Palestine question. The allegation of a chemical weapons factory in Egypt is indicative of U.S. attempts to "ravage the Arab image and improve the Israeli one," the paper claimed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict, Negotiations

Iranian forces opened fire on Iraq's 11th Division troops 13 March, according to INA.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati proposed that peace talks with Iraq should resume in the third week of April, IRNA reported. He repeated the demand that Iraqi troops should withdraw from Iranian territory to enable the talks to make progress.

The Iranian National Liberation Army, the military wing of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, announced in Baghdad the release of 644 Iranian POW's to mark the Persian New Year, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Delivers Speech 13 Mar

LD1303222189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA)—Speech by Dr Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], at the 18th session of the ICO ministerial council on the occasion of his assumption of the post of ICO secretary general: [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman: The Islamic world is in dire need of unity of rank. For several years we have shown the world a regrettable picture of our internal contradictions, our continuous confrontations, and our overt or covert wars. We have shown a picture of countries in which everything is contradictory. The founders of the Islamic Conference Organization—thanks to their profound wisdom—appealed from Rabat to the Islamic people to make the principle of peace an eternal guiding beacon. They urged them to settle any differences between them. [passage omitted]

In this connection, I should praise the many efforts which have been made in recent years to overcome the difficulties which arose here and there, to find a solution to the problems among member states, and to end the fighting among the brothers which has swept whole areas of our nation and spread over a very vast region.

It gives me great pleasure to refer to the normalization in relations between many member states. I mean between Chad and Libya, and relations in the greater Maghreb and the Middle East. This normalization heralds the glad tidings of opening wide vistas before these two areas with the birth of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council, whose works will enrich the work of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League as well as the Organization of African Unity and similar cooperation agencies in Asia.

The Islamic nation was deeply satisfied with the cessation of the 8-year war between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Republic. The cease-fire under UN auspices allowed for negotiations to take place in order to try to establish permanent peace between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Republic—according to the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 598 adopted on 20 July 1987. No doubt this war was a great tragedy for both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Republic—in fact, for the entire Islamic nation. However, the violence and ferocious fighting were not, praise be to God, uncontrollable. [passage omitted]

In the future, we should strive to encourage the current process to establish permanent peace between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Republic. We should consolidate the cease-fire and the dialogue in order to reach an understanding and bravely and realistically face pending problems. When we assume this responsibility, we will add a new brick to the edifice of action for the sake of uniting the ranks of the Islamic nation.

Proceeding from this conviction—the necessity of the solidarity and unity of our ranks—we must work collectively for the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan as a nonaligned state in order to enable the Muslim Afghan people to freely determine their own destiny. During the previous period, the Afghan mujahidin have proved the Afghan people's resolve to maintain their identity and to be able to determine their own destiny. After grave sacrifices, their heroic armed struggle led to the withdrawal of the foreign forces which occupied Afghan territory. The Islamic Conference Organization greeted the victory of the mujahidin and the people of Afghanistan on 15 February 1989 when the last detachments of the occupation forces departed.

However, we should do a great deal more to consolidate the pillars of this victory. The existing regime in Kabul should allow itself to be replaced by a government which embodies the deep-rooted aspirations of the Afghan people, as the latter expressed them throughout their prolonged liberation struggle. After winning the war, we should know how to build peace. The unity of the Afghan mujahidin constitutes a decisive factor. Proceeding from this premise, there was the appeal I addressed to the Afghan Shura Council during its recent session. It is pleasing and comforting to see that the Shura Council has realistically decided to establish an interim government. While the tribulation of the Afghan people is nearing its end, I hope that ICO member states will start thinking about what they can do to enable the refugees—the majority of whom are living in Iran and Pakistan—to return to their country and rebuild the Afghan economy, which was destroyed by the war. [passage omitted]

The long struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the banner of the Palestine Liberation Organization has entered a decisive phase, which requires us to unite efforts and increase our material, political, and diplomatic support for this struggle. Everyday now for months a succession of pictures has reflected the blind brute force the Zionist enemy is using to realize its evil plans in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the blessed Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories has given new momentum to the struggle whose banner is carried by the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The peace strategy adopted by the Palestine National Council at its historic session in November 1988 in Algiers—and which coincided with the declaration of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state—is a valuable step along the path of the victory of the Palestinian cause. The recognition of the Palestinian state by a large number of countries and the positive reaction of the Western states and the international community in general to the PLO'S political and democratic initiatives under the leadership of its great chairman Brother Yasir 'Arafat clearly represent significant events. Therefore, the ICO member states should take a decisive stand and offer ever-increasing support to the PLO's political and diplomatic initiatives and to the intifadah in the occupied territories.

I also recall Lebanon, which has been torn up and whose people are experiencing a hard tribulation and are looking desperately for peace. I applaud the efforts being made within the framework of the Arab League. I am grateful to His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, for his active striving to make conditions suitable for the realization of national reconciliation. I call on ICO member states to support this effort and work for the preservation of the unity, territorial integrity, and independence of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The General Secretariat and the various apparatuses and bodies of the Islamic Conference Organization—each within the framework of it's task—have made every effort to realize this Organization's many aims. Nevertheless, we must admit that the results which we have realized are not up to the level of our aspirations. We must also admit that the realization of these aspirations—despite their legitimacy—depends on the capabilities the member states place at the disposal of the Secretariat General and its apparatuses and bodies. From this angle we must acknowledge that the member states have not always fulfilled their obligations, especially those relating to the shouldering of the expenses needed to implement the resolutions and decisions of the various bodies of the Organization. It suffices to say that the outstanding amount of the contributions to the General Secretariat due from the member states is about 19 million dollars [not further specified]—this figure alone needs no further details. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Abu Nidal Threatens To Kill 3 PLO Officials
NC1403064789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has threatened to assassinate PLO officials 'Afif Saghiyah, Nabil Sha'th, and Nuha Tadrus, who recently met with Israeli parliamentarians in New York within the framework of a conference on the Middle East.

Further on Threat
JN1403070889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council under Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] has made indirect threats to kill three PLO officials who recently met with Israeli Knesset members at a special seminar held in New York on the international Middle East peace conference.

In a statement in Beirut, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council said it places these 'Arafatist symbols in the same position as 'Isam al-Sartawi. Al-Sartawi was 'Arafat's advisor and was assassinated by Fatah-the Revolutionary Council in Portugal in April 1983, where he was attending a Socialist International conference that was attended by Israeli Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres.

Fatah-the Revolutionary Council said that the attendance by Nabil Sha'th, head of the political committee in the Palestinian National Council, at the New York seminar on peace is a U.S. penetration of Palestinian fora, and called on Palestinian national factions to deter such symbols.

'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leadership
LD1303160589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1506 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, March 13 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Monday [13 March] received a message from the Soviet leadership.

The message, whose content was not disclosed, was delivered by Soviet ambassador to Tunisia.

'Arafat returned here today after concluding a tour that covered several Arab and Asian countries.

'Arafat 'Prepared To Go to Jerusalem'
PM1303160689 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 12-13 Mar 89 p 14

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Olga Bisera in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Bisera] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], what is the significance of your visit to Cairo?

['Arafat] I have had important talks with President Mubarak, who is about to meet with Bush, and we examined details of the peace process and the possibilities for new developments.

[Bisera] Could you explain that more clearly?

['Arafat] Certainly. We will make efforts in all internatinoal spheres—toward the EC, the socialist countries, and the nonaligned countries. The United Nations and the Security Council have an important role and should play it. We will develop the current dialogue with the U.S. Administration, which we regard as positive, because a great deal depends on Washington. We will insist on an international Middle East peace conference. If the United States wants the conference to be convened, the Israeli leaders will accept it—the hawks will do so even before the doves. The U.S. attitude carries great weight.

[Bisera] Does everything depend on the United States?

['Arafat] Not at all. Peace in the Middle East will be the fruit of an agreement between the great powers. It is now clear that the Soviet Union wants to solve the problem of "hotbeds of tension" in the world. And the United States is moving in the same direction too. After Afghanistan, the Gulf, Cambodia, and possibly Cyprus, there is the Palestinian question. Shevardnadze's Middle East tour and his visit to Egypt will be seen in this context. The two superpowers have played and must play a major role in this process. Peace is unthinkable without U.S. and Soviet participation and approval. The Middle East is close to a new Yalta, and our main concern is to be present at the negotiations. Right now we are following the dialogue between the Soviets and Chinese. I recently received a letter from the Chinese leadership, which supports the Palestinian positions, on the result of the talks in Beijing with President Bush. I must say that President Bush adopted an excellent attitude. It is encouraging. And then there is us. There is the PLO. There is the intifadah [uprising], which will continue until the Israeli occupation ends. [passage omitted]

[Bisera] Shamir is resolutely opposed to any international conference. Are you counting on Shimon Peres' Labor Party to break the deadlock?

['Arafat] No. There is only one government policy in Israel agreed on by the coalition government. And the Labor Party leadership is in crisis. This is the reason for the success of Likud and the religious parties in the recent local-government elections. But the Israeli people want to negotiate. Even the soldiers refuse to continue perpetrating crimes against our children, our women, and our old people.

[Bisera] How can the deadlock be broken?

['Arafat] I am prepared to take Al-Sadat's road. I am prepared to go to Jerusalem. But I am not Al-Sadat. I act with the full agreement of all Arab leaders. The late Egyptian president went to Jerusalem without Arab agreement and support, making concessions on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. That right did not belong to him. If Al-Sadat had taken his initiative with Arab agreement and support, adhering to positions of principle, there would already be a Palestinian state. But he went too far too soon, making too many concessions. [passage omitted]

PFLP Condemns Statement

JN1303211089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2020 GMT 13 Mar 89

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In Damascus, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] today condemned Yasir 'Arafat's recent statements in which he declared his readiness to go to Jerusalem and said: The readiness expressed by the PLO Executive Committee chairman to follow Al-Sadat's steps does not only imply capitulationist tendencies, but also indicates how far 'Arafat is ready to go in his response to Washington's conditions.

PPSF Assails Remarks

JN1303195489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Mar

[Text] Damascus—The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has emphasized that statements made by Yasir 'Arafat in which he expressed his preparedness to visit Jerusalem are indicative of a serious political line that aims at normalizing Arab-Zionist ties under the banner of Palestine.

In a statement released today, the front said that these statements stab the national and pan-Arab struggle. They also mark a departure from and flagrant, grave violation of the Palestinian consensus decisions and the Arab summit resolutions. In addition, they do the most serious damage to the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

'Arafat Meets Arab League UN Envoy in UAE

JN0303132289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1228 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met here today with Dr Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League's representative at the United Nations, who arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning.

During the meeting, they reviewed the international efforts that are currently being exerted to resolve the Palestinian question and to help the Palestinian people achieve their legitimate rights, foremost of which is their right to establish the independent state on the national soil.

During the meeting, they also discussed means to make an international move, sponsored by the United Nations, to stop the acts of terrorism and massacres to which the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine are subjected and to protect the Palestinian people from this Israeli terrorism.

In this regard, 'Arafat asserted that the Israeli enemy's escalation of its criminal and savage acts against the intifadah [uprising] calls for an international move to put an end to these inhumane practices, which contradict all international norms and values.

'Arafat Urges More Organization for Palestinians

JN0903171689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution's Forces, has urged the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories to set up more committees specializing in economic, social, agricultural, educational, and organizational affairs.

In an address he made yesterday to the Palestinian people on the occasion of the beginning of the 16th month of the intifadah [uprising], he urged them to use more organization in all fields of militant action to entrench mass authority in the occupied territories with the weapon of brotherhood, genuineness, and love, which the Palestinian revolution has always sharpened.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the Palestinian revolution, which has scored many achievements in its struggle against the Zionist occupation, is now fighting with more unity and cohesion, the last chapter of the night of suffering.

'Arafat Discusses Peace, International Moves

JN1303180789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Answering a question about Israel's repressive policy against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as about Shamir's forthcoming visit to the United States, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that this policy is one of the means used by Shamir, Sharon, and Rabin to delude themselves and the U.S. Administration that they can control the blessed intifadah [uprising]. The intifadah is continuing and achieving victory by ending the Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land and by raising the Palestinian flag.

'Arafat added that the intifadah will continue to escalate despite all the official repressive Israeli actions by the Israeli army or the armed fascist terrorist actions by the settlers, who are continuing their aggression against our children, women, and people.

Regarding the Palestine question and his expectations during the next 3 months, brother leader Abu 'Ammar told the reporters, who came to attend a ceremony on the hoisting of the Palestinian flag over the Palestinian Embassy in Manama yesterday: As you know, there is a large-scale international move. The EC has set up the troika committee to follow up the situation in the Middle East, although Britain is not a member of the committee. He pointed out that the current committee was originally made up of the EC's former president, current president, and forthcoming president, and that the Soviet Union also took wide steps. He added: Soviet Foreign Minister Comrade Shevardnadze made a dynamic move. Brother Abu 'Ammar also noted: This move followed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in order to give an important momentum to the Middle East issue. The Chinese leadership also made a move and held talks with U.S. President George Bush. Japan also adopted a new position and recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and stressed the importance of the international conference to be attended by the PLO. There is also a new and important Arab position, especially after the Iraqi victory at the eastern flank of our Arab nation and after Egypt's return to the Arabs.

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat said: All these moves are intended to establish our state. It is a matter of time. As I said, the Palestinian state is a stone's throw away, God willing.

PLO Sends Message to UN on Ansar-3 Detainees

JN0303190289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1622 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The UN Security Council [UNSC] yesterday received a message from the PLO on the developments of the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories caused by the escalation of the Zionist oppression against the Palestinians.

Dr Nasir al-Qudwah, acting Palestinian representative at the United Nations, said that the message he conveyed to the UNSC contains a detailed explanation of the serious situation being experienced by the Palestinians in the occupied territories in light of the arbitrary practices being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authorities against them beginning with the military siege; the supply blockade; and ending with the campaigns of house-stormings, detention, torture, and house demolitions.

Dr Al-Qudwah also said that he also conveyed to the UNSC the text of a statement addressed to the United Nations by Palestinian detainees held in Ansar-3 in the Negev in occupied Palestine. He also relayed to the UNSC an attached message from brother commander in chief Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in which he calls upon the UNSC to interfere, with the aim of saving the detainees from the tragic situation they have been experiencing in the prison. [passage omitted]

PLO Issues Statement on Arab Summit, 'Uprising'

LD0903204489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, has announced that the PLO is endeavoring to convene an Arab summit to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and its intifidah [uprising] and to reach a solution to the issue of the Lebanese people. He indicated that consultations are under way to establish whether the summit will be extraordinary or ordinary.

In a statement to the press, he stressed the importance of international detente for the resolution of the Palestinian issue and other regional conflicts. He said in this respect, the present facts—the intifadah, the international political stands, and changes in world public opinion—suggest that the solution is imminent. He described the Soviet role in the peace process in the region as an essential and important one.

With regard to the PLO's stand vis-a-vis terrorism, brother Abu Mazin said that when we said that we denounce terrorism we did not mean that the armed struggle or the intifadah are part of terrorism, and we have the right to fight the Zionist army, which is killing our women and children and raiding our people's camps [words indistinct].

He also stressed the determination of the Palestinian people to continue the intifadah in the occupied land as it is the appropriate response to continuous Zionist terrorism. He then called on the international media to denounce the methods of Zionist terrorism, indicating that the killing of children, women, and the elderly; the shooting of demonstrators in the occupied land and the Israeli raids on Palestinian camps in Lebanon; and other methods are terrorism itself.

Khalaf on Egyptian Role, Dialogue With U.S.

NC0503085889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the PLO's second in command, has stated that during his recent meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo he could perceive the president's support for Palestinian diplomatic activity.

In an interview with the AL-AHRAM newspaper published today, Abu Iyad said that he and President Husni Mubarak had discussed all the Arab issues and ways of confronting Israeli intransigence.

Commenting on Egypt's role in the current stage, Abu Iyad affirmed that Egypt's historic regional role will be renewed, particularly in connection with the international conference and Palestinian moves. He added that everyone now acknowledges that Egypt is playing the leading role with regard to attaining Arab solidarity. He said everyone agrees that Egypt is the basis of Arab strength and, as a result, the future Egyptian role on the international and Arab scenes will be a very important one in persuading various parties to pressure Israel.

Concerning the five-party meeting between Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for, Abu Iyad noted that the Soviets had informed the PLO that the Syrians and Jordanians agree to attend it. He added that the PLO learned that Egypt also has agreed to attend the meeting. He remarked, however, that the Syrian responses have been vague and lacking in frankness. He said that it seems there is some coolness on the Syrians' part.

Commenting on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Abu Iyad said that the PLO has offered more than it can and that it is not required to make an initiative every day. Describing the dialogue as diffident and feeble, he said that the Bush administration has not taken any positive steps so far and that the question now is whether or not Israel accepts the principle of peace on the basis of coexistence between two states. He emphasized that, with all the concessions that the PLO has made, there is not a single Palestinian leader who would now accept anything less than the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Abu Iyad noted that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir is still counting on the method of rejection to abort the Palestinian moves, but, he stressed, Shamir will not succeed in this maneuver, nor will he succeed in harming the intifadah [uprising]. He added that Shamir will develop his current initiative and will accept some kind of international supervision by the USSR and the United States over direct negotiations with the Arab countries.

Hawatimah Views PRC Role in Mideast Process

OW0303123989 Beijing XINHUA in English 1543 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus, March 2 (XINHUA)—A senior Palestinian official stressed here today China's important role in solving the Middle East problems.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Damascus-based "Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine" (DFLP) called for joint action between China and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) when he met with Chinese Ambassador to Syria Wang Changyi.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Hawatimah said that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands will continue so as to compel the United States and Israel to acknowledge the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and national independence and agree to the convention of the proposed international Middle East peace conference.

Hurani Criticizes U.S. Positions on Talks

JN1103110089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 9 Mar 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has expressed his belief that U.S. hesitation to resume the contacts with the PLO is intended to confuse the Palestinians and draw them into internal battles in order to abort their peace plan. He added that this plan has met with a positive international response represented in the statements made by William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, who praised the intifadah [uprising] and condemned the Israeli occupation.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Hurani said that the U.S. Administration is trying to gain time before taking any future steps, especially since it finds itself embarrassed by the PLO's daily political gains. He said that U.S. hesitation to resume the contacts is because of a fear of Israeli reaction. He believes that the United States is trying to force the Palestinians to take a defensive position, using Palestinian operations in southern

Lebanon to exercise pressure on the PLO leadership. He added that we must be cautious against this trend. He explained that the United States wants to draw the Palestinians into the details of the so-called terrorist actions, stressing the need to continue what he called the political and informational trend to achieve the PLO's goal through our peace plan, the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and Israel's military occupation of southern Lebanon, which should be resisted militarily.

Hurani added that the Palestinians are not in a defensive position against the false accusations by the United States because of the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon, especially since the PLO is launching its peace plan despite Israel's terrorist practices.

Hurani voiced his belief that the United States is also trying to shuffle the cards following a Soviet effort to search for a political solution to the Middle East problem—a solution that was announced in the Kremlin and the Arab capitals that were visited by Shevardnadze, who also met with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens.

Hurani also said that the United States is very displeased with coordination among Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO—sides that are supposed to attend the forthcoming international conference, especially since this was proposed by the PLO and adopted by the Soviet Union. As a result, he said, the United States is trying to cast doubts about the PLO and its call for a just and comprehensive peace.

Asked about the contacts held with Israeli officials by Palestinian figures inside the occupied territories and if these contacts were assessed by the PLO leadership, Hurani said that no contact took place without the PLO's prior knowledge and that what is taking place was certainly planned by the PLO leadership as part of a dialogue and exchange of ideas, and not as part of negotiations. The Palestinian official stressed: "If they sense the danger of this dialogue as a result of the enemy's attempt to make the Palestinian figures an alternative, our people will be the first to stop the dialogue."

Regarding the outcome of these contacts, Hurani said that the dialogue stopped after each side expressed its viewpoint and that the Palestinian side strongly explained the PLO's firm position that peace should be based on ending the occupation, convening an international conference, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their rights. He added that the Israeli sides that participated in the dialogue expressed positions that differ from the Israeli Government's positions. These sides' positions were described as advanced, although they call for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a call that is rejected by the PLO and the Palestinian people for its wicked purpose. He pointed out that the elections are aimed at preoccupying the Palestinian people, distracting their attention from the intifadah, their daily revolution, dividing them in the occupied territories by creating disputes and competitions, persuading world public opinion that the issue is confined to Palestinians inside the occupied territories, and excluding our people in the diaspora from the focus of attention.

On Dialogue With U.S.

PM1303155289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Walid al-Ja'fari report: "Palestinian Meetings To Set Agenda for Dialogue with United States"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, LOS ANGELES TIMES service—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that an official U.S.-PLO meeting will be held in Tunis next Wednesday. He also said that U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau has informed PLO ambassador Hakam Bal'awi that the United States will continue its official dialogue with the PLO.

Hurani informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Executive Committee member and PLO Information Department chief Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and PLO ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi will represent the Palestinian side in Wednesday's round of talks, while the American side will be represented by Ambassador Pelletreau.

On the issues to be raised at that meeting, Hurani said that the Palestinian side will meet to set an agenda and to define the ideas they want to convey to the American side.

Hakam Bal'awi denied reports in some sectors of the world media the day before yesterday that the PLO has decided to halt its contacts with the United States. He said that such reports are groundless and that all PLO contacts with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis are official and conducted with the knowledge of, and on the basis of a decision by, the Palestinian and U.S. leaderships. [passage omitted]

PLO Denies 'Syrian' Claims on Sabotaged Car

JN1303211689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1918 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] A responsible PLO information source has stated the following: Citing Syrian intelligence sources in Lebanon, some agent news media reported that the Syrian intelligence checkpoint at Khaldah had captured a booby-trapped car on 8 February 1989 and had levelled the accusation against the Fatah movement in Sidon. The PLO and the Fatah movement utterly deny the false Syrian allegations promoted by Syrian intelligence organs. They also challenge those spreading these allegations to prove them. These allegations aim first of all at harming the concepts of continued Palestinian political and military action against the Zionist enemy and the successive victories scored by the PLO and its legitimate leadership under leader symbol Yasir 'Arafat on the international level.

These methods fall within the framework of the plan against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps therein. They intend to prepare the climate for the war scenario being prepared by Israel and some of its agents in the region.

PLO Urges 'Preliminary' Conference in Cairo

NC0803161189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1507 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, called on Egypt to extend invitations for a preliminary international conference in Cairo to prepare for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Kamal said that this preliminary conference would be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties concerned with the conflict in the region, including Israel and the PLO. He noted that at a later stage after this conference, the negotiations could move to Geneva or New York to discuss the agenda of the international conference.

Speaking before the Cairo-based correspondents of Arab news agencies, the Palestinian official said the purpose of this proposal is to stop a return to the status of no peace-no war, and to block the way before the Israeli Government's attempts to procrastinate and stall in the face of the PLO's endeavors to find a peaceful and just settlement for the Middle East issue.

The PLO representative in Cairo added that the PLO, in conjunction with Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Arab Maghreb states, has started preparing a working paper for the international conference. He noted that the PLO demands an implementation of what the Arabs had decided in more than one summit, the latest being the Algiers summit.

Regarding the European role, Kamal said that the latest positive European moves have not borne fruit yet and are passing through a "lame duck" stage. Also, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has not yet touched on the substantial issues.

The Palestinian official said Israel and its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir are trying to gain more time by delaying everything, including the international conference. Shamir is also trying to get as many Jews in the world as he can to speak out against the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the international conference before his visit to Washington this month.

Editorial Cautions Against Separate Deals

JN0203171789 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Feb 89 p 1

[Editorial: "A Cautionary Note Against Risks of Separate Solutions and Breaks in Arab Unanimity"]

[Text] PLO leaders have recently been declaring their readiness to enter into direct talks with the Zionist entity even before the proposed international Mideast peace conference gets under way. Such statements are bound to raise fears in Palestinian and Arab circles about the serious implications of accelerating the pace of Palestinian gravitation toward Israel out of step with the general Arab drift.

Initiating direct negotiations with a view to promoting a separate deal with the Zionist entity will reduce the Palestinian cause from a pan-Arab concern to an exclusively Palestinian one—an approach that runs counter to the pan-Arab perception of the issue and denies it its pan-Arab cover.

Moreover, such an orientation is in direct conflict with Arab summit resolutions that have advocated an international Mideast peace conference grouping the five UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the dispute. This is the acceptable forum for initiating any negotiations to work out an equitable solution and durable peace. Furthermore, a unilateral approach clashes with the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions that have neither explicitly nor implicitly endorsed direct, separate negotiations with the Zionist entity. Resolutions of successive PNC sessions have emphasized the centrality of the Palestinian cause as a pan-Arab concern that must be addressed as such to rally the support of Islamic and friendly forces and seek a solution agreeable to all the Arabs.

Looking for a solution outside the framework and ahead of the international conference deprives the Palestinian cause of Arab leverage and cancels the notion of the international conference or, at any rate, puts it on hold. Sitting unilaterally with the Israelis, the Palestinians would thus be pitted on their own against Zionist interlocutors who will not find it very difficult to impose a solution.

This is the rationale behind the urgent call by the corrective movement of Fatah and the PLO for evolving a united Palestinian stand fortified by a united Arab posture vis-a-vis peace proposals to steer clear of the slippery road of separate deals and to prevent the demise of the project for a just, even-handed peace.

Palestine National Fund Concludes Meeting

LD0403222889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1953 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 4 (KUNA)—The Palestine National Fund concluded two days of meeting here Saturday by adopting a number of resolutions to back the Palestinian uprising in the occupied homeland. A press release issued by the fund's board of directors said that it will exert all efforts possible to meet demands of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories within its difficult circumstances and limited resources.

It appealed to all Arab countries to meet their commitments pledged during the Algeria summit and asked the Arab and Islamic peoples to increase their support to the intifadah [uprising] that started to yield clear and positive effects in the enemy lines as well as in the international arena.

The fund's 70th session held in the Palestine Embassy premises here reviewed steps so far covered in marketing the surplus production of olive oil via Italy and other markets to alleviate burdens of the farmers in the occupied West Bank in addition to marketing citrus produce of the Gaza Strip in Europe for the same purpose.

The board expressed satisfaction over steps taken in this direction and further discussed a number of other agenda issues including means of upgrading the organization's resources in the light of the fund's deficit.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat attended the fund's meetings, chaired by Deputy President Salah al-Barghuti, and explained developments in the Arab and international arenas regarding the Palestine cause.

The meetings were also attended by speaker of the Palestine National Council Sheikh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, deputy speaker Salim al-Za'nun and a number of Executive Committee members.

Libya

Basic People's Congresses Issue Resolutions

LD1003092789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1632 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Resolutions of the Libyan basic people's congresses, read by General People's Congress Secretary 'Azzuz al-Talhi, at the 9 March session of the General People's Congress in Banghazi—live]

[Text] The resolutions:

Article I: Issues arose in the speeches of the brother leader during the 19th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution. The basic people's congresses studied the issues in the speeches of the brother leader and approved them while emphasizing the following resolutions:

1. Build the revolutionary committee movement as a model to enable it to play its revolutionary role in the best way;

2. Give impetus to women and enable them to play their role fully in the various areas of work and production, and enable them to play vanguard roles and develop their capacity to accomplish that;

3. Establish the armed people and gradually cancel the traditional defense and security establishments by building an organized armed people in the defense areas replacing the traditional establishments, and implement the concept of people's security while reconsidering the law of local people's security;

4. Gradually implement what came regarding economic policy as it concerns the barter system and the cancellation of the export and import establishments, while assisting the establishments of socialist economic activity;

5. Consider the speeches of the brother leader a program of action which the people's committees should implement;

6. Charge the popular and legal establishments with the drafting of laws, reconsider the laws and measures which contradict them, and put these to the basic people's congresses during their forthcoming sessions.

Discussion of imperialist U.S. threats and escalation of these against the great Jamahiriyah. The basic people's congresses reviewed, in an emergency session, the U.S. threats against the Libyan Arab people. They reaffirmed their freedom on their soil and the continuation with the march of construction and building in the military, economic, and scientific fields. The basic people's congresses do not accept a trusteeship over them, intervention in their affairs, or violations of their sovereignty. They repeat the following:

1. They greet the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution who led the confrontation [applause] and support all his steps and initiatives to confront these threats;

2. They greet the courageous Arab stand of the Libyan Arab people in its confrontation of the U.S. aggression;

3. They highly value the stands of the friendly states and international and regional organizations, which expressed their support for the great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of this aggression;

4. They support the great green document on human rights in the era of the masses on the prohibition and criminalization of the production, development, stockpiling, and use of weapons of mass destruction;

5. They honor the two pilots, the martyrs of duty, who confronted the U.S. aggression by awarding a medal to each of their families;

6. They put the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in charge of explaining the implications of recurring U.S. aggression against the great Jamahiriyah.

Article II: The follow-up report on the implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses drafted during the General People's Congress in its 14th ordinary session of 1988, resolves:

1. That the replies of the people's committees must be comprehensive and detailed, and that the problems facing the people's committees in their implementation of their resolutions must be given priority. The people's committees should be made responsible for shortcomings in implementation;

2. To improve the services of the electricity company, maintain its generators, build desalination plants, maintain transmitters and put forth programs of action to satisfy the needs of the citizens so as not to burden them;

3. To develop villages and rural areas, give attention to the building of houses for farmers, and encourage migration from urban to rural areas;

4. To give attention to productive projects, give priority to the completion of expected productive projects, and make scientific studies of the viability of these projects;

5. To protect agricultural lands and prohibit building on them unless it complies with the law;

6. To expand housing projects by offering prospects of loans to citizens and granting agricultural projects and projects of animal and maritime resources and supporting the cooperatives based on these;

7. To take care of agricultural projects and projects of animal and maritime resources and support the cooperatives based on these;

8. To stress the implementation of the laws issued by the BPCs and issue the necessary resolutions for it;

9. To make services available for all citizens by opening branches and offices for the central apparatuses, bodies, and establishments whenever this is possible, and to stress the need to develop these services;

10. To be bound by the advice and directives of the brother leader of the revolution and to apply the quotations of "The Green Book";

11. To take care of nursery plants, palm seedlings and seeds, and to improve and protect them from agricultural flails;

12. To follow up the payment of the Jamahiriyah's debts to other states;

13. To encourage revolutionary and popular initiatives in the sphere of collective work;

14. To conform to the views of the agricultural congresses on exporting and importing agricultural necessities.

Public Service

1. Give promotion to those who deserve it and implement the congresses' resolutions with regard to appointments and pay increases;

2. Return those demobilized from the Armed Forces to their previous work;

3. Implement the resolution of transferring the labor force to production after the preparation of a detailed scientific study;

4. Orient the graduates of the institutes and centers of vocational training and university graduates to jobs in production;

5. Try to implement a guide to categorize jobs as soon as possible.

The Training Sector

1. Pay attention to vocational training and support it by making available the necessary requirements and technical staff;

2. Train women in fields suitable for them;

3. Train the surplus workforce and the people released from the armed forces and who were transferred to the production line by drawing up programs that will quickly provide them with qualifications.

The Educational Sector

1. Accelerate implementation of the educational structure and provide its requirements and attach importance to scientific research and support it with human and material resouces;

2. Draw up a scientific plan to absorb students at the various stages with the best and complete use of all the capabilities and use these capabilities to serve students from all municipalities.

The Information Sector

Draw up intensive awareness programs.

The Mobilization Sector [passage indistinct]

The Treasury

1. Pay salaries and wages on time;

2. Compel public quarters and companies to close their budgets and present their final accounts every year and deter offenders of financial laws;

3. Coordinate with the Libyan Central Bank and the importing quarters, and facilitate opening credits and allocating them in good time.

The Health Sector

1. Issue health cards for the foreign work force;

2. Attach importance to the health sector and preventative medicine;

3. Accelerate implementation of the health dossier.

The Communications

1. Organize the services of the companies affiliated to the communications and maritime transport committee to improve them and raise standards, particularly with regard to the airlines company, the maritime transport company, the post office, and the intermunicipal transport company;

2. Levy taxes on post and telephone services in a way that does not put pressure on the citizen;

3. Support the project of cloud seeding.

Economy

1. Take into account the population density when distributing goods, especially the subsidized goods, and agricultural equipment and requirements;

2. Endeavor to do the accounts of the companies belonging to the secretariat of Economy and Foreign Trade, and submit their final accounts at the end of each year;

3. Endeavor to distribute consumer goods directly through distribution channels adopted by congress, and follow the consumer booklet for the (?longlife) goods;

4. Stress the supply of transportation and the necessary spare parts;

5. Keep the people's markets, focus on importation of necessary goods, and abide by health and technical regulations in the event of import.

Industry

1. Complete the industrial projects, try to develop self-sources for the municipalities. Supply the equipment, the employment requirements, spare parts and raw materials, and submit projects to economic and scientific study in order to create alternative sources to oil;

2. Encourage partnerships, meet their requirements in terms of equipment and raw materials, and encourage local industries;

3. Pay attention to strategic projects such as the iron and steel complex, supply the raw materials and all the necessary production requirements;

4. Study the possibility of setting up factories on the remnants of slaughter houses.

Article III: Report of Libyan Central Bank

The basic people's congresses studied the report of Libya's Central Bank and adopted it, while issuing the following remarks:

1. The expenditure of foreign currency should be in accordance with the volume of imports;

2. More sub-branches of trade banks should be opened in all municipalities;

3. The serious efforts to release Arab Libyan money frozen abroad should be continued;

4. Investment should be encouraged and banking facilities should be improved;

5. The recommendations of the bank should be stressed. The bank should be assisted in implementing the resolutions of the basic people's congresses and confronting economic crises that may occur. If necessary, the bank should take measures in accordance with current laws and articles.

Article IV: Budget

Evaluation of the financial situation in 1989. The basic people's congresses studied the financial situation in 1989 and adopted the report. The basic people's congresses made the following remarks:

1. Taxes paid in return for services should be improved. There should be quick action with regard to the Jamahiriyah's debts and taxes vis-a-vis other countries;

2. New financial resources other than oil should be sought; new productive projects should be created and imports should be decreased.

Article IV: Budget—[continued]

Follow-up of the implementation of the 1988 changeover budget.

The basic people's congresses discussed the report of the follow-up implementation of the 1988 change-over budget. They voiced satisfaction and made the following observations:

1. Complete the projects under way which fall under the plan of change while giving priority to productive, strategic, and utility projects that have been halted and those under way; supply the necessary funds for the completion of these projects according to one's ability;

2. The amount of money spent does not tally with the projects that have been completed, and which are mentioned in the report of the follow-up report. [sentence as heard]

Article IV: Budget—[continued]

The basic people's congresses discussed the 1989 changeover draft budget and adopted the following amount: 900 million Libyan dinars. They made the following remarks:

1. Priority must be given to the completion of hitherto uncompleted projects of social and economic concern, particularly industrial and agricultural projects as well as health, education, housing, transport, maritime fishing, and cadres projects;

2. Expand the system of granting housing loans as a substitute for the system of public housing, and grant loans to agriculture and pastureland projects in the countryside and rural areas to encourage reverse migration;

3. Take into consideration the notes concerning the development of the budget;

4. Bolster the national companies implementing the development plans projects;

5. Avoid concluding any new contracts or increasing the values of existing contracts, with the exception of some projects pertaining to electricity, generation capacity, dams, storage tanks, and area development;

6. Embark on the construction of premises for the peoples' conferences with the means available.

Article IV: Budget [continued]

Following up the implementation of the 1988 operating budget.

The basic people's congresses continued their discussion of the continued implementation of the operating budget for the year 1988 and affirmed the following points:

1. Pay salaries on time with due care to the collection of taxes;

2. Trim down the administrative machinery and concentrate on production;

3. Refrain from use of legal deductions and their immediate transfer to the quarters concerned;

4. Oblige the municipal popular committees to work for the development of their own resources in order to limit the general treasury subsidies granted to them;

5. Refrain from loading the budget with new burdens and refrain from excessive expenditures.

Article IV: Budget [continued]

The preparation of the operational budget for the year 1989.

The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft operational budget for 1989 and approved it with a limit of 1,174 million dinars, while affirming the following points:

1. Pay salaries on their due dates provided that they also cover workers in agricultural projects;

2. Reduce expenditures as much as possible;

3. Hold the public quarters, companies, establishments, and other institutions and individuals for the payment of monies due by them to the treasury;

4. Refrain from the use or disposal of the assets of the Social Security Fund and the investment companies;

5. Stress the implementation of financial laws and bills related to expenditure and savings, collection of taxes and excise.

Article IV: Budget [continued]

The basic people's congresses followed the implementation of the import budget for the year 1988 and expressed satisfaction. They stressed the necessity of granting priority to importing spare parts, intermediary materials, production requirements, and necessary food products.

Article IV: Budget [continued]

Preparation of the import budget for the year 1989.

The basic people's congresses discussed the project of the import budget for the year 1989 and adopted it with the following remarks:

1. Focus on the importation of the requirements of production, spare parts, compulsory goods such as food, clothes, educational, training and medical requirements, and handicapped requirements, depending on available finances;

2. Apply the principle of barter in import;

3. Stress the principle of import from friendly and sisterly countries;

4. Taking into account the remarks put forth in the draft budget.

Article IV: Budget [continued]

The defense budget and support for the year 1989.

The basic people's congresses discussed the defense budget and adopted it, stressing the following points:

1. Pay attention to scientific research and industrialization;

2. Support the defense regions;

3. Support the Palestinian fighting resistance and the revolution of the stone;

4. Pay more attention to the members of the armed forces, care for the families of the martyrs and the missing;

5. The basic people's congresses discussed the project of creating a fund for the support of the necessary goods, and adopted the following to this effect:

The draft proposal on subsidizing the necessary goods should be resubmitted to the basic people's congress in another session; it should include all the specifications related to the goods that are to be subsidized and the goods that are not to be subsidized.

Article V: General Reports

The report of the general body for agricultural production and affiliated companies.

The basic people's congress studied the report of the general body for agricultural production and affiliated companies. They voiced satisfaction and made the following remarks:

1. Attention should be given to all aspects of the water issue. There should be particularly strict controls on exploitation, and legislation in this regard should be carried out. Water resources should be developed while attaching importance to desalinization, cleaning water used in everyday life, dams, and reservoirs;

2. Priority should be given to providing the necessary material such as seeds, saplings, spare parts, disaster-combatting means, insecticides, medicine, fodder and animal breeds;

3. Attention and support should be given to farming research and studies;

4. Problems and difficulties facing the body and other sub-branches—such as the provision of electricity, transport, and funds—should be resolved;

5. Individuals and cooperatives should be encouraged to set up farming and industrial-agricultural projects in accordance with socialism, and to stress cooperation between the agricultural body and the people's committees for agricultural reforms;

6. The remarks of the people's body in question should be considered.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report of the people's committee for the great man-made river.

The basic people's congress studied the report of the people's committee for the great man-made river and voiced satisfaction. They stressed the following:

1. The difficulties facing the project of the great man-made river—such as the provision of soil, well digging, and the control the executive companies—should be solved;

2. The implementation of the second phase should be speeded up; assurances should be given concerning the amount of water saved in the river;

3. National elements should be included in the implementation phase;

4. Studies on a wider use of the great man-made river should be carried out.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report of the people's committee for industry and affiliated companies and bodies.

The basic people's committees discussed the report of the general people's committee for industry and affiliated companies and bodies. It expressed satisfaction over the report and voiced the following remarks:

1. The establishment of factories and cooperatives, particularly those that use local raw materials, should be encouraged;

2. The suitable atmosphere for industrial production should be provided to solve the difficulties facing it, such as facilitating the requirement for tools, marketing of goods, transport, and the availability of standard specifications;

3. Attention should be given to drawing up an economic timetable;

4. Attention should be given to strategic projects;

5. Priority should be given to training citizens in the industrial field;

6. Attention should be given to alleviating the difficulties facing the iron and steel industries;

7. The companies should prepare their budgets and close thier final accounts in accordance with monetary regulations.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report of the general people's committee for economy, external trade, and affiliated companies.

The basic people's congresses discussed the report of the general people's committee for economy, external trade, and affiliated companies and voiced satisfaction with it. They stressed the following points:

1. Supply a portion of the provisions while working to resolve the problem of dues to national institutions for provisions as far as the treasury is concerned;

2. Provide production goods according to demand while observing the quality and taste especially with regard to clothing, furniture, household items, construction items, sanitary items, cars, spare parts, and agricultural materials;

3. Pay attention to pricing, control the prices of goods and services, and combat brokerage;

4. Expand the companies belonging to the general people's committee for external economy and trade by setting up factories;

5. Revise the role and organization of companies by trying to treat the difficulties facing them, such as opening credits, and compelling them to submit their budgets and final accounts within the set time periods;

6. Define the role of partnerships, the jamahiriyah institutions, and individuals in import operations;

7. Encourage local industrial and agricultural production by setting up programs to guarantee its marketing;

8. Revise the role and status of the national company for markets;

9. Adopt the barter principle in external trade in order to end the hegemony of foreign currency;

10. Take into account the remarks of the follow up people's body.

Article V: General Resolutions [continued]

The resolution of the general people's committee for communications and maritime transport and the companies under its supervision.

The basic people's congresses discussed the resolution of the general people's committee for communications and maritime transport and the companies under its supervision. They expressed satisfaction and stressed the following:

1. Endeavor to surmount the difficulties facing the companies under the supervision of the general people's committee for communications and maritime transport, especially in connection with foreign transfers, and facilitate the administrative procedures;

2. Endeavor to develop these companies by modernizing their administration and pay attention to training and Libyanization;

3. Support the air and maritime fleets, endeavor to improve the services of the airline company, and fix the schedules of their internal and external flights;

4. Pay attention to ports and develop services in them;

5. Take into account the remarks of the follow-up people's body;

6. Pay more attention and support the apparatus of cloud seeding, and extract water in a way that achieves the maximum benefit at the largest possible level.

Article V: General Resolutions [continued]

Resolutions of the general people's committee for the treasury, and the financial and banking institutions under its supervision.

The basic people's congresses discussed the report of the general people's committee for treasury, and the financial and banking institutions belonging to it. They expressed satisfaction, and commented on the following:

1. The companies must conclude their final accounts at the fixed schedules, and submit their reports to the basic people's congresses bearing clear figures;

2. Pay due attention to investment abroad, take into consideration the yield resulting therefrom, and tackle the problem of external unyielding investments;

3. Expand and spread banking services in the various regions, expand loans to agriculture and pastureland projects—and to provisions and housing projects pertaining to individuals or companies—and adopt necesary measures to insure repayment of loans;

4. Pay salaries on their due date;

5. Ensure that the Libyan Insurance Company participates in productive investment projects;

6. Ensure that the public quarters honour their commitments to the Estate Investment and Savings Bank;

7. Bolster the Agricultural Bank to enable it to meet the demand for loans;

8. Financial investment institutions should pay special attention to municipalities and remote regions which have not yet benefited from their investments. The distribution of projects should be based on the needs of the regions and not on population density, in a manner that ensures local development throughout our entire Jamahiriyah;

9. Take into consideration the notes of the popular follow-up machinery;

10. Review the rate of citizens' contributions to the Estate Loan System;

11. Stress the need for the company [unspecified] to invest funds it receives in a manner which ensures a good economic return.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report of the general people's committee for maritime wealth and the companies falling under its supervision.

The masses of the basic people's congresses have discussed the report of the general people's committee for maritime wealth and the companies under its supervision, and expressed satisfaction. They stressed the need to consider the following points:

1. Care for martime fishing and fish farms through the bolstering of companies, collective organizations, and societies, the building of ports, the development of existing ports, training, and the creation of capabilities in the field of maritime fishing, coupled with the provision of necesary equipment and other needs;

2. Care for distribution, marketing, and pricing;

3. Pay due consideration to the notes of the people's follow-up apparatus.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report of the national institute for oil and affiliated companies.

The basic people's congresses discussed the report of the national institute for oil and affiliated companies and voiced satisfaction. They stressed the following points:

1. Direct interest towards providing training and formation of national elements and work toward dispensing with the foreign work force whenever possible;

2. Expand prospection operations especially in the south of the Jamahiriyah;

3. Set up more oil stations in agricultural, rural regions and in saharan areas;

4. Speed up the completion of oil projects under way, mainly the second phase of Ras Lanuf complex and the refineries in the south;

5. Alleviate the difficulties facing the institute and its affiliated companies;

6. Provide insecticides;

7. Take into account the remarks of the follow-up people's body. The basic people's congresses discussed the report of the general institute for electricity and its affiliated companies, and stressed the following points:

1. There should be no increase in electricity fees;

2. Force the general areas to settle their debts due to the general institute for elecricity; pursue a periodic billing system; implement the electricity generators projects such as the projects of Mlita and Sabha, and expand the generator of Banghazi-north;

5. [number as heard] Direct interest toward the maintenance of high voltage lines, generators, and the provison of spare parts;

6. Train and form national elements and dispense with foreign work force;

7. Compensate for damages and losses caused by deterioration or loss of electricity;

8. Take into account the remarks of the follow-up people's body.

Article V: General Reports [continued]

Report on the social security fund.

The basic people's congresses discussed the report on the Social Security Fund and expressed satisfaction, stressing the following:

1. Pay security benefits regularly and without delay and facilitate payment procedures;

2. Compel public quarters to pay their contributions to the social security fund;

3. Apply the proposals in the report and support the fund with human and material resources;

4. Take into account the observations of the people's follow-up apparatus;

5. Complete the projects being executed and distribute the new projects to cover every region of the great Jamahiriyah;

6. Take better care of the disabled.

Article VI: General Issues

Questions to the secretariat of the General People's Congress

The General People's Congress questioned its secretariat and expressed satisfaction with the answers. It decided that all observations emanating from the basic people's congresses be referred to the secretariat which would be bound by them in the future.

Questions to the people's committees:

The General People's Congress questioned the general people's committee on the observations emanating from the basic people's congresses, the secretariat of the General People's Congress, and the people's follow-up apparatuses. It expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the general people's committee and made the following decisions:

1. Refer all the observations emanating from the people's congresses to the general people's committee and consider these observations as the general people's committee's program of action for 1989 in light of the means and resources available.

2. The general people's committees are entrusted with preparing a detailed report on reactions to the points raised during question time. This report will be presented to the people's congresses during their second ordinary session in 1989.

3. The people's committees and the executive bodies affiliated to it should be bound by the observations emanating from the people's follow-up apparatus.

Questions to the people's follow-up apparatus:

The General People's Congress questioned the people's follow-up apparatus and expressed satisfaction with the report it presented to the basic people's congresses. The people's follow-up committee will entrust the members of this apparatus with attending the people's congresses to clarify any points that need to be clarified.

Article VII: Draft law on the bolstering of freedom: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the bolstering of freedom and decided to promulgate it, incorporating the following points:

1. The remarks of the brother commander of the revolution at the basic people's congresses at Hayy al-Andalus in 1988 and the 15th ordinary session of the General People's Congress;

2. The remarks of the basic people's conferences of the socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during their 2d ordinary session for the year 1988;

3. The remarks of the popular conferences and popular assemblies convened abroad concerning the aforementioned law which bolsters the rights of man in the era of domination by the masses.

Article VII: [continued]

Powers of the people's committess:

The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the popular committees and decided to promulgate it incorporating the following points:

1. The remarks of the brother commander of the revolution at the basic peoples congress at Hayy al-Andalaus and the 15th ordinary session of the General People's Congress;

2. The organization of the jurisdictions of the upper and lower people's committees in a manner that gives executive powers to the lower people's committees and ensures the domination and control of them by the upper people's committees;

3. The vesting by law of administrative powers to the secretaries of the people's congresses that would enable them to supervise and follow up the work of their respective people's committees;

4. The law shall provide for the creation of investigation committees or courts to be formed by the people's congresses. [passage indistinct]

Draft law on social security: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on social security and decided to prepare a new law on social security embodying the remarks received from the people's congresses of the municipalities, particularly the following:

1. Take into consideration the guidelines laid down by the brother commander to the Hayy al-Andalus basic people's congress concerning the question of social security;

2. Run the social security fund through popular management;

3. Organize the issues of compensation in the cases of disasters and voluntary insurance.

Draft law on the rights of Arabs living in the great Jamahiriyah: Based on the premise that the great Jamahiriyah is the land of all Arabs, the basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the rights of Arabs living in the great Jamahiriyah and decided to promulgate it on the basis that the Arab brothers shall enjoy the same rights and duties as those enjoyed by the Libyan Arabs.

Draft law on the exemption of commodities of Arab origin from customs duties and taxes: In light of the great Jamahiriyah's leading role in the creation of an integrated Arab economy, the masses of the basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the exemption of commodities of Arab origin from custom duties and decided to promulgate it on the condition that the general people's committee of the Treasury shall abide by the remarks received from the people's congresses when laying down the conditions and regulations pertaining to exemptions from customs duties.

Draft law on the protection of fauna and flora: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the protection of the fauna and flora and decided to promulgate it embodying the following points:

1. Protection for all important animals and trees;

2. Prevention of the construction of buildings at the expense of agricultural lands;

3. The issuing of licences under the law shall be vested in the People's Committees concerned;

4. The review of the fines provided for in the draft law in accordance with remarks pertaining to them recieved from the people's congresses of the municipalities.

Draft law on industrial organization: During their second ordinary session for the year 1988, the basic people's congress has discussed the draft law on industrial organization and decided to promulgate it, affirming the need for granting wide powers to the people's committess concerned in the municipalities.

Draft law on exempting some strategic industrial projects from taxes and customs duties: The basic people's congresses discussed during their second ordinary session for the year 1988 the draft law on exempting some strategic industrial projects from taxes and customs duties, and decided to promulgate the law. This law includes the exemption of the following factories:

1. The iron and steel complex;

2. The chemical complex in Kammash;

3. The aluminum complex project in Zwarah;

4. The rolled and cast iron complex project;

5. Cement and building products factories.

Draft law on the exploitation of sea wealth: The basic people's congresses discussed during their second ordinary sessions for the year 1988 the draft law on the exploitation of sea wealth. They decided to promulgate the law in conformity with the remarks made by the basic people's congresses, especially:

1. Severely punish those who pollute sea waters;

2. The maritime fishing bureaus, which will be notified by the general people's committee for maritime wealth, will have to comply with the registration procedures in conformity with Article 15 of Libyan Maritime Law, and force the ships' owners to employ a percentage of local elements whose number will be determined by a decision from the general people's committee for maritime wealth.

Draft law on equality concerning deserving leave: The basic people's congresses discussed during their second ordinary session for the year 1988 the draft law on equality concerning deserving leave. They decided to promulgate the law and consider the remarks of the people's congresses to this effect.

Draft law on medals: The basic people's congresses discussed during their second ordinary session for the year 1988 a draft law on medals. They decided to promulgate the law and to take into account the remarks of the people's congresses.

Draft law on the amendment of the law on national service: The basic people's congresses discussed the draft law on the amendment of the law on national service. They decided to promulgate the law and include the brother leader's remarks made at the Hay al-Andalus congress.

Draft law on the amendment of the law on travel documents: The basic people's congresses discussed during their second ordinary session for the year 1988 the draft law on the amendment of the law on travel documents, and decided to promulgate the law.

Draft law on the organization of the agricultural bank: The basic people's congresses discussed the draft law on the organization of the agricultural bank and decided to promulgate the law, including the remarks made by the people's congresses of the municipalities, stressing the following:

1. The bank is to be managed by a people's committee;

2. The agricultural bank is to open branches in the municipalities;

3. Priorities, facilities, and loans are to be given to those who devote themselves to work in the agricultural and animal sectors;

4. The texts set out in the law concerning leasing lands will be cancelled.

Draft law pertaining to the organization of the affairs of minors: The masses of the basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the organization of the affairs of minors and decided to promulgate the law, embodying the remarks received from the basic people's conferences in this respect.

Draft law amending the provisions of the law on civil and commercial litigation: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law amending the provisions of the law on civil and commercial litigation and decided to promulgate the law, embodying the following: a penal court's jurisdiction will be confined to cases not exceeding 1000 dinars in value.

Draft law amending the passing of judgements in the judicial law: The masses of the basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the amendment of the passing of judgement in the judicial law and decided to promulgate the law.

Draft law pertaining to price control: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law on the control of prices and decided to promulgate the law.

Draft law on the collection of installments of loans pertaining to public housing: The basic people's congresses have discussed the draft law pertaining to the collection of installments of loans granted for public housing, and decided to promulgate the law, embodying the following:

1. Deductions must never exceed 15 percent of income or salary;

2. Exempt those persons granted exemption under previous laws;

3. The law will provide for adequate notice periods;

4. People with limited income, and orphans, and children of martyrs may be fully or partially exempted from payment of installments.

Draft law on the combat against smuggling commodities to avoid payment of customs duties: During their second ordinary session for the year 1988, the basic people's congresses discussed a draft law on the combat against smuggling goods to avoid payment of customs duties, and decided to promulgate the law.

Draft bylaw pertaining to public hygiene: The basic people's congresses discussed the draft bylaw on public hygiene, and approved it with the embodiment of the following points:

1. The fixing of garbage dumps away from housing estates and sea shores and public roads, coupled with setting up plants for recycling garbage or its incineration;

2. The reduction of rates from houses by 50 percent. Citizens for whom a garbage collection company does not provide any service will not be liable to pay rates;

3. The bylaws will clearly provide for punishment of the company in cases of dereliction of duties;

4. Free insecticides-spraying services will be used in public places;

5. Support the company in carrying out its duty.

Draft project of the electrical energy organization: The basic people's congresses discussed the draft project of the electrical energy organization; they adopted it and issued the following remarks:

1. Carry out periodic taxation operations based on objective meter-readings in accordance with a set time table of prearranged installments of debt repayments;

2. Work toward the completion of the company's project aimed at supplying electricity throughout the Jamahiriyah, and support the company with the necessary technical elements;

3. Settle debts due to the company so that the company can provide job opportunities and set up stations;

4. The company should develop and increase electricity capacity;

5. The company should coordinate with the people's committees for agricultural reforms in municipalities once obstacles are removed;

6. Previous prices should be maintained, and submitted to the basic people's congresses if they are reconsidered.

Article VIII: Foreign Policy

The basic people's congresses have discussed the article on foreign policy, including:

1. The results of the visit by the brother leader of the revolution to the fraternal and friendly states, and the visits of the heads of states to the great Jamahiriyah;

2. The historical declaration of the brother leader of the revolution on the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the OAU and the day of Africa;

3. The report of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau on the continued implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses;

4. The project of Arab unity and the unionist steps with the brothers;

5. The Palestinian Arab cause and the dimensions of the stone-throwing revolution and the proclamation of the Palestinian state;

6. The international treaties and agreements signed in 1988 between the great Jamahiriyah and other states;

7. While the basic people's congresses express satisfaction with the successes of the great Jamahiriyah in facing the imperialist attack against the Arab nation, they highly value the positive results of the visits paid by the brother leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution to the fraternal and friendly countries, express their pride and support for the colossal efforts of the brother leader for building comprehensive Arab unity and his repeated Arab Union initiatives, and for the present of the brother leader to Africa on the 25th anniversary of the OAU's foundation. The basic people's congresses see in the brother leader's foreign policy a determining factor to strengthen relations between the great Jamahiriyah and the fraternal and friendly countries, and the direct cause for support which the great Jamahiriyah has enjoyed during the confrontations and battles it has waged.

They affirm the following:

1. Continue the visits by the brother leader to the states of the Arab homeland and the friendly countries, and entrust the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau with following up their results;

2. Continue efforts to build Maghreb unity, considering that it is the foundation for the building of comprehensive Arab unity;

3. Build fraternal relations and consolidate cooperation with Chad;

4. Entrust the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau to pursue the implementation of the contents of the brother leader's historical declaration on the 25th anniversary of the OAU's foundation;

5. Strengthen cooperation in various spheres with African states and support the liberation movements;

6. Praise the stands of fraternal Arab countries, the nonaligned community, and the friendly states by the side of the Libyan Arab people in its brave resistance to U.S. threats and repeated aggression against it;

7. Continue to intensify contacts to realize the project of Arab unity, and work for the foundation of an Arab common market;

8. Increase support for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, the offices and missions under its umbrella, with human and material means;

9. Affirm the recognition of the Palestinian state on all Palestinian Arab territory with holy Jerusalem as its capital, and reject any neglect of the Palestinian cause or recognition of the Zionist state, considering that the conflict with the Zionist enemy is one of existence and not of borders;

10. Increase support for the stone-throwing revolution and work for the implementation of the resolutions of the Arab emergency summit, held in Algiers in 1988;

11. Approve the treaties and agreements signed during 1988 which were submitted to the basic people's congresses in their second ordinary session in 1988, with the proviso to carry out an analytical review of the treaties and agreements submitted for approval;

12. Tackle the observations and criticisms put forth by the people's follow up apparatus in its report submitted to the basic people's congresses, particularly the question of speedily completing the final versions of the budgets of the brotherhood bureaus and the people's bureaus abroad;

13. Stress the invitation to Arab leaders to attend the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people on the 20th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

The draft constitution of the union between the great Jamahiriyah and Algeria: The masses of the basic people's congresses discussed the draft constitution of the union between the great socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Comprehensive Arab unity is the fate, the way to salvation, the pride of, and the existence for this nation. There should be one Arab state, from the ocean to the gulf, in which the regional and small entities are dissolved, and in which the Arab masses are amalgamated in a full merger that removes imaginary borders. This comprehensive Arab unity can survive in a world governed by power and which respects only the powerful.

In response to the revolutionary unionist initiatives of the revolutionary thinker, leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi [applause], to which the 1 November revolution has responded [as heard], the basic people's congresses in the great Jamahiriyah decided that the union is the first step in the merger between the great Jamahiriyah and Algeria, and that it will be a step on the path of the edification of the Arab Maghreb toward the realization of one Arab state.

They decided to submit the federation project to the other Arab countries and to call on them to join. While deciding on this constitution and adopting it, they stress the following:

1. The union will be called the Arab Union rather than the Union of the Arab Maghreb.

2. A single military command of the union will be formed.

3. Economic integration in the form of productive and industrial projects between the union member-countries will be given priority.

4. The council of the presidency of the union will form a political and ideological council whose members belong to the Algerian National People's Assembly and the General People's Congress in the great Jamahiriyah.

5. Any amendment to the union's constitution can only be made after it has been submitted to the people for their approval, and subsequently adopted.

6. The council of the presidency is entitled to dissolve the pan-Arab unionist people's assembly should it infringe the texts of the constitution of the union.

Article IX: General Resolutions—Pan-Arab Resolutions

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Resolutions of the general pan-Arab congress in its fourth ordinary session between 24 Rajab of the year 98 [as heard] since the death of the prophet—God's peace and prayers be upon him—and 2 Shaaban 98, corresponding to 2 March 1989 to 9 March 1989.

The masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses adopted the draft law on the consolidation of freedom through the great green charter with the following remarks:

1. The defense of the homeland is the responsibility of every citizen, male and female;

2. Emphasize the issuing of the executive decisions on the law of freedom;

3. Implement the death penalty in the most restricted manner on those whose life constitutes a danger to society, even after incarceration.

The masses of the pan-Arab people's congress discussed Article II—on premeditated aggression against the great Jamahiriyah—and decided the following:

1. The Arab masses stand proudly beside the people of the great Jamahiriyah in confronting the imperialist attack;

2. The Arab masses praise the unified Arab stand in confronting these challenges;

3. The Arab masses are prepared to bear arms in defense of any part of the Arab homeland in the event it is exposed to any imperialist-Zionist threat;

4. Confront with every determination any future aggression, and translate the resolutions from words to deeds;

5. Expose this aggression through the sphere of information at international and world forums;

6. Attack imperialist and Zionist interests in the event of their using force against the Arab motherland;

7. Emphasize the speeding up of the implementation of the resolutions of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses regarding the setting up of the pan-Arab jamahiri guards.

The masses of the basic people's congresses discussed Article III—Arab unity is an urgent necessity in view of the imperialist and Zionist challenges to our Arab motherland—and decided on the following:

1. Arab unity is inevitable and is an urgent (?necessity), and a reality emphasized by the Arab masses throughout the Arab arena;

2. Support the initiatives on unity undertaken by the brother leader of the revolution for the sake of bringing the day of comprehensive Arab unity closer;

3. Support the steps toward unity taking place throughout the Arab arena in order to speed up the coming of the day of total pan-Arab unity.

The masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congrsses discussed Article IV—to support the popular uprising in Arab Palestine—and decided the following:

1. Reaffirm the resolution of the general pan-Arab congress, which was drafted during its third ordinary session, and the General People's Congress held in Ras al-Unuf, and bring it to the stage of implementation;

2. Reaffirm the explanatory memorandum regarding support for the uprising.

The masses of the pan-Arab congresses discussed Article V—the position of the Arab League toward the international peace conference—and decided the following:

1. Reject the international conference on peace in the Middle East, and adhere to the principle of no to reconciliation, no to negotiations, and no to compromising the rights of the Palestinian people;

2. Reaffirm that the conflict with Zionism and imperialism is a conflict over existence and not over borders, and adhere to the fighting Arab gun;

3. Confirm the resolutions of the third ordinary session of the congress;

4. Consider the notes of the pan-Arab Wadi al-Hayah and al-Niqat al-Khams congresses.

The masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses discussed Article IV—on the equality of the brother non-Libyan Arabs with the Libyan Arabs—and decided the following:

1. Freedom to operate according to this resolution should be decided on by whoever wishes to do so. Those who do not should operate according to their various contracts;

2. Adhere to the letter of the contracts made with the brother Arabs, since contracts are binding to the signatories to the contract;

3. Speed up the issuing of a memorandum on how this resolution could be implemented. It would then be submitted to the pan-Arab basic people's congresses for ratification.

The masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses discussed problems pertaining to Article VII on the territory of the Jamahiriyah, and decided on the following:

1. Medical treatment will be given free to every Arab citizen on a par with brother Libyan Arabs;

2. Foreign contractors should be treated free of charge, as stipulated in their work contracts. The cost of this treatment should be borne by social security or the employer;

3. Travel tickets provided for in the contracts of all contractors should be issued. The brother Egyptian Arabs residing here who are owed travel tickets from 1988 should be issued such tickets. Travel tickets for Arab brothers residing in the Jamahiriyah should be reserved in local currency, as with Libyan Arabs;

4. A proportion of housing should be allocated to brother Arabs who are members of the pan-Arab congresses;

5. The brother non-Libyan Arabs should be treated as equals with their Libyan brothers in the fulfillment of their pilgrimage duties.

The masses of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses discussed Article VIII:

1. The masses of the pan-Arab people's congresses have decided to elect its pan-Arab people's committees at the municipality level to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the health, education, and scientific research, defense, information and national mobilization, public works, agriculture and land reclamation sectors, in order to finalize the organizational structure of the executive dimension. The pan-Arab basic people's congresses are to complete the elections in accordance with their specific regulations;

2. An organizational resolution on the work of the pan-Arab people's committees specifying their specialities and relationship as regards the people's committees in the municipalities and the general specialized people's committees in the Jamahiriyah should be issued;

3. The election of the general pan-Arab people's congress should be postponed until the election of the pan-Arab people's committees at the municipality level at the first meeting of the secretariat of the general pan-Arab congress.

The basic people'scongresses discussed Article IX. The secretariat of the general pan-Arab congress was questioned by the brother members of the pan-Arab congress, who reaffirmed their support for and confidence in the secretariat. The secretariat of the general pan-Arab congress will be elected after the completion of the organizational structure during its first meeting on 15 May 1989. The secretariat of the pan-Arab congress in the great Jamahiriyah was constituted as follows: The basic conferences of the international general congress have discussed the grand international green charter on human rights, and decided on the following:

1. Approve the contents of the grand international green charter on human rights and ensure its endorsement universally and internationally, taking the following remarks into consideration:

A. Act on the directives of the world leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

B. Consider what was contained in the green document as a world law to be acted on in all countries.

C. The conferees fully appreciate the contents of the great green charter.

D. Translate this document into all popular languages so the people of the world are able to read it and grasp what it says in order to arrive at building a happy and free international society.

2. The basic conferences of the international general congresses debated the best and sole solution that the world leader advocated for the Chad problem. The conferees highly prized the ideal solution that the brother colonel put forth for the Chad problem. They consider it a barrier and a disappointment to imperialism, Zionism, and African reaction, which has been exploiting this issue.

The conferees congratulated the internationalist great leader for the peace gift he gave to the OAU on its 25th anniversary. It considers it a unique step toward achieving African unity. It is also a model for solving the problems of neighboring states and is an example to be followed in building and strengthening relations among states.

3. We have said that the internationalist leader unified the Arab nation without resorting to documents. Thus, the conferees support the unity that the brother colonel has embarked on, which was partially concluded in Marrakech with the proclamation of the Arab Maghreb Union. They call on Arab leaders to join ranks alongside which the internationalist leader is standing.

4. Support liberation movements in the world. The conferees express complete support for all liberation movements. Members of the conference expressed sorrow and anger at the heavy pressure of the Zionist occupation of Palestine suffered by the Palestinian people and the suffering of the African people in South Africa at the hands of the racist regime. Members of the congress support the stone-throwing revolution in Palestine and the struggle for freedom in Namibia and South Africa. Accordingly, the conferees recommend the need to form an international army to defend the oppressed peoples of the world.

5. The basic international people's congresses debated and approved the need to enlist in the green guard of the human rights society.

6. Members of the congress express their resentment against the false claims of the former Reagan administration about the pharmaceutical plant at Al-Rabitah. Members of the congress condemn the ill intentions of the United States of America during this period of the Reagan regime. They are convinced that every nation has the right to build factories that fulfill its needs in any sphere. They consider that all the threats have no legal basis because the United States continues at the same time to build chemical plants which threaten the annihilation of man and other creations.

The conferees denounced the U.S. attacks on the two Libyan Arab planes. They consider this international terrorism to be directed against the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership. Therefore, members of the congress consider that any attack on the Libyan Arab people is an attack against internationalists throughout the world.

7. The conferees uphold the need to form congresses and bind themselves to form the basic international people's congresses at home and abroad and everywhere, because they are the sole means of spreading this new civilization.

8. Members of the international congresses are pleased and happy to make a decision naming 1988 the year of the international leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. They consider with pride and dignity the honor of international leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the historic work he has done, which was acknowledged by friends and foes. This work is:

A. Demolishing prisons and freeing the inmates.

B. Removing the borders between brothers.

C. Solving the Chad problem and the African gift, which unified and removed all the problems connected with the African Continent.

D. Tearing up the lists of names of those who were banned from travelling.

E. Proclaiming the grand green document of human rights and success in the efforts to promote Arab unity and the bold opposition to the threats of U.S. imperialism.

1. [as heard] Local issues: Naturally, the congresses have the right to decide what they deem appropriate. The executive quarter has the right to reject or refuse the implementation. This is their affair. The members of the international congresses appreciate the free medical treatment for all those who work in the Jamahiriyah and their families, whether the treatment is at external clinics or hospitals.

F. The communications sector: Members of the congress are unhappy with having to pay for their travel tickets in foreign currency when they are working in the great Jamahiriyah, because 10 years worth of salaries do not cover one ticket for a worker, and workers are a majority. Therefore, they recommend that these tickets be sold in Libyan dinars as they were originally (? based) on the Libyan Arab dinar.

G. The specialist popular committees in the municipalities: The conferees call for the need to pay attention to the international congresses in municipalities and solve their problems.

H. The congress decided to form international cultural clubs in all municipalities.

7. [as heard] The congress decided that every alien in the international municipal congresses must be registered with the existing congresses. The secretary of the people's committee for public service and the secretary of the municipalities should help.

8. The conferees recommended the need to provide opportunities for work for members who are affiliated to the international congresses and those who believe in the third international theory, and not to deprive them of the right to work in the Jamahiriyah.

9. The conferees decided to establish schools and nurseries for internationalists in all municipalities and to solve educational problems via the international congress in the municipalities.

In the bank sector the conferees decided to call for solving the banking problem that arose in the municipalities as a result of differences in the situation between one bank and another.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A message to the international leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Sincere greetings! We members of the general international congress, part of the General People's Congress, at a time when we conclude the drafting of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses in the great Jamahiriyah and abroad, are happy to send this telegram to you to express our admiration for your great personality and your noble people, with whom we share these seats. Our participation in these seats is sacred to all the peoples of the world. This is evidence of the courage and daring and self-confidence that are inherent in this great people.

It is a great event never before placed on record, neither in the past nor in the future, except by your great people on the face of this earth. We, international leader, believe in the green thought that you brought forth into the world to awaken the opressed so that they will defend their right to freedom and final salvation and put in their place those who covet other peoples' rights.

Thus, international leader, all the internationalists in the world are rallying around you so they can benefit [words indistinct]. All the enemies of mankind are at a loss when you keep silent and they tremble out of fear and terror when you speak becaue you are a barrier against their cheap ambitions.

We pledge to you before God and before your people, a pledge which we will not break, that we will forever cling to the green book and the grand international document. We will rely on it for the good of man and his right to preserve his dignity and possessions and honor.

Victory for you and your great people. Let us go forward. Al-Fatih forever.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Addresses Constituent Assembly 13 Mar

NC1303182889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that he is continuing his consultations with the political parties and trade unions so that a new government may be formed as soon as possible. He affirmed that the participation in the new government of the political parties represented in the Constituent Assembly will take place in accordance with their parliamentary numbers, but the participation of the political forces outside the assembly will be determined on the basis of their support for the phased working program of the next government, signed by the political parties and forces on 4 March.

In a statement to the Constituent Assembly today, the prime minister declared that if the unions enter the new government, they must commit themselves to ending strikes, as part of the effort to develop the political function of the unions in Sudan. In his statement, the prime minister admitted that the conditions in Sudan are bad, particularly with regard to shortages and the high cost of living.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also admitted that there have been setbacks in the equatorial areas in southern Sudan. He said that the Armed Forces will confront and contain these setbacks. He noted here that he will appoint a defense minister in the new government who has the confidence of the Armed Forces General Command.

In his statement, the Sudanese prime minister stressed that the Muslim majority in the country is anxious that the non-Muslims should have full civil rights. This majority believes that constitutional conference should be held at the earliest possible opportunity, he added.

Hasan 'Abd al-Qadir, a Democratic Unionist Party member of the Constituent Assembly, stated that this statement contained nothing new. The assembly, he said, should view it as a briefing on what is taking place in the political arena. He asked for an end to the discussion.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi proposed that leaders of the parliamentary bloc in the assembly meet to discuss his statement.

After a debate that lasted around 30 minutes, Al-Mahdi withdrew his proposal. The assembly decided that what the prime minister had said was a briefing and not a statement. The debate was closed.

The prime minister's statement today surprised the Islamic Front. Parliament officials of the Front said that it was expecting Al-Mahdi to touch on the question of the Islamic shari'a in his statement. He did not do so, however, but underlined his commitment to the phased program which was signed by all the political parties and forces.

A source in the Islamic Front said that the Front's Political Bureau will meet this evening and make its decision in light of the prime minister's statement. He added that Al-Mahdi's speech to the assembly today was unexpected.

Dr Bashir 'Umar, former minister of culture and information and deputy leader of the Al-Ummah Party, told the MENA correspondent that the new government will be announced not later than Wednesday [15 March], in light of the consultations which Al-Mahdi is having with the political parties and forces.

In another development, trade unions and associations have called on the State Council to intervene immediately with the concerned parties, on the basis of its constitutional responsibility, to handle the process of forming the new government. The unions issued a statement today in which they announced their refusal to sign the prime minister's request that they freeze their demands and halt strikes. The unions asserted that the ministerial portfolios in the new government should not exceed 18 and called for the abolition of the post of minister of state.

Further on Address

EA1303171889 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi made a statement to the Constituent Assembly this morning concerning the current political situation in the country. The prime minister stressed that the Constituent Assembly was the place for making decisions on subjects connected with the destiny of the homeland.

Mr al-Mahdi briefed the Assembly on the latest developments in the situation in the country. He spoke about the effect of the on-going war in the south of the country on the Sudanese people and confirmed the government's efforts to save those not involved, despite biased accusations that we have used food as a weapon. He said: The search for a peaceful solution to the fighting continues through direct talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] leadership. He stressed that Sudan was striving to find a peaceful solution to the Eritrean issue.

He said the Sudanese Armed Forces had confirmed their commitment to constitutional legitimacy and discipline. Mr al-Mahdi welcomed the phased program and said: We are looking forward to developing understanding and participation. He mentioned that the participation of the political parties would be according to their representational weight. He added that the government of the United National Front would take into consideration the latest developments in the political arena. He said he would complete his contacts and would soon present the government.

Islamic Front Refuses Government Participation

LD1403113189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum Mar. 14 (SUNA)—The National Islamic Front "NIF" will not participate in the forthcoming government of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, a decision in this effect was taken last night by NIF executive leadership.

The daily "AL-SUDANI" issued here today said the decision was taken yesterday following the statement delivered by Premier al-Mahdi before the Constituent Assembly (parliament) yesterday.

The paper said the Islamic National Front refuse to take part in the government because the statement of Al-Mahdi did not include implementation of Islamic shari'a laws.

Al-Mahdi in his statement before the Sudanese parliament said the Islamic laws would be considered in the Constitutional Conference.

A delegation representing the National Islamic Front is due to meet here today chairman and member of the Council of the State.

The secretary general of NIF Dr Hasan al-Turabi will hold a press conference today to explain the decision behind the non participation of the party in the new government.

Kuwait

Iranian Envoy Ahmad Jannati Pays 2-Day Visit

Received by Amir

LD1103102589 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] This morning at 1100, his highness the amir received Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, chairman of the Islamic Information Organization, and member of the Council for the Preservation of the Constitution, and his delegation. He conveyed to his highness—may God protect him—a message from his excellency the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD1103152889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1220 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad met today with Iranian presidential envoy, Ayatollah Jannati.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that talks with the Iranian official tackled issues on the agenda of a four-day meeting of Islamic foreign ministers opening in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Monday.

Jannati is head of Iran's Islamic Information Organization and member of the Constitution Guardians Council.

The Kuwait chief diplomat added that bilateral ties and developments in the region also featured in the exchanges with the Iranian emissary.

Earlier today, Jannati handed a message to H.H. the amir from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sabah said he would be leaving for Saudi Arabia tomorrow at the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference.

IRNA Reports Jannati Visit

LD1103154389 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i's message to the Kuwaiti ruler underlining the need for a united Muslim stand against Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses," was presented by a prominent Iranian alim today. Guardian Council member Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, also briefed Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah on dimensions of the plot masterminded by global arrogance to smear Islam and God's last prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) should adopt a decisive stand against the novel so as to prove to the world that the ummah is united and will never allow its sanctities to be insulted," he said.

The Kuwaiti ruler agreed that publication of "The Satanic Verses" was an "international plot," and called on OIC foreign ministers- who are scheduled to meet in Riyadh Monday—to coordinate a decisive stand against such insults to Islam. He expressed hope that relations between the Islamic Republic and Kuwait would daily expand on the basis of Islamic brotherhood.

Jannati and his entourage arrived here this morning, on the 5th leg of a tour of regional Arab states. Later today he also discussed the issue with Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

The two pointed out the need for OIC foreign ministes to take a joint action against the publication of the sacriligious novel.

The tour has already taken Jannati to UAE, Oman, North and South Yemens, where he delivered President Khamene'i's messages to the respective heads of state.

The ayatollah also heads the Islamic Propagation Organization, and is scheduled to visit Qatar and Bahrain in coming days.

Departs for Bahrain 12 Mar

LD1203102189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0812 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 12 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Iranian Islamic Information Organization Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati left here early Sunday [12 March] for Bahrain within framework of a GCC tour.

He was seen off by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Iranian charge d'affaires here and a Protocol Department official.

PDRY

Government Announces Relations With Colombia

EA0803105689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] A declaration to establish diplomatic relations between the Governments of the PDRY and the Republic of Colombia was issued this evening in Aden and Bogota. Here is the text of the declaration:

Desiring to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between their countries and peoples, the Government of the PDRY and the Government of the Republic of Colombia have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between them on a nonresident ambassadorial level as of today. This decision is based on their mutual respect for the principles of international law and for the UN Charter in addition to their commitment to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement in its struggle for international peace, security, economic development, and the elimination of all forms of colonialism and racial segregation. The two governments will strive to intensify contacts and strengthen the existing cordial relations between their countries in a manner that will serve the mutual interests of their peoples. The two governments agreed to appoint ambassadors as soon as possible.

Soviet Cooperation Delegation Departs 4 Mar

EA0503191289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Excerpt] A delegation to the permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union, headed by Comrade Vladimir Georgiyevich Chirskov, minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, left Aden yesterday evening after a visit to our country that lasted several days. The delegation participated in the meetings of the seventh session of the joint permanent committee.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY on his departure, Comrade Chirskov said that during his visit he met Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, and discussed with him all the issues that had been covered during the meetings of the seventh session, in addition to questions of developing and consolidating cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union. He said the session's meetings had dealt with questions concerning the extraction of petroleum and gold, prospects for economic cooperation in agriculture and fisheries, and the exchange of visits between the two friendly countries. He said the session was a step on the road of economic and technical cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union and that it had contributed to expanding and developing economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Official Arrives in Aden for Talks

EA0503213989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The secretary general of the DFLP, Brother Nayif Hawatimah, arrived in Aden yesterday evening on a visit of several days to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Hawatimah said that he will discuss with party and government leaders the brotherly relations between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the DFLP and ways of strengthening them. He said the Palestinian uprising and the preparations for an international conference on peace in the Middle East would also be reviewed as well as developments in the Arab arena, particularly the current Arab groupings and their influence on Arab affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Central Committee invitation came at a time when the leadership of the PLO is on the eve of a new session of meetings to discuss all these developments, he said.

He said that he would also discuss the escalating American attack on the PLO aimed at crushing the Palestinian armed struggle and halting the uprising. The positive developments that resulted from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour to the Middle East would also be discussed.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Receives DFLP Official 8 Mar

JN0803184789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received this morning Brother Abu 'Adnan ['Abd al-Karim Hamad], member of the DFLP Political Bureau, who is visiting our country.

During the meeting, several issues of mutual interest were reviewed. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Salam al-'Arashi, Standing Committee member.

Al-Asbahi, Delegation Return From Baghdad

JN0703143489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The delegation of the General People's Congress headed by Dr Muhammad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], returned to Sanaa from Baghdad this morning after a visit to fraternal Iraq lasting several days at the invitation of the Ba'th Party. Dr al-Asbahi described the visit as a great success, especially as it took place in light of the distinguished and fraternal relations, which were promoted as a result of the pan-Arab and unionist trend of the two fraternal countries led by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

British Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 7 Mar

JN0703145289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] A delegation of the British House of Commons headed by House of Commons member (Robert Orli) arrived in Sanaa this morning. In a statement to SABA', he expressed his happiness and that of his delegation to be visiting our country for the first time. He said that the visit is aimed at promoting and strengthening relations between the two countries through the meetings and talks, which he will hold with Consultative Council officials. He pointed out that relations between our country and Britain have made significant progress following the British foreign secretary's visit to our country. The delegation was received by council member [name indistinct] and a number of council officials.

Received by Al-'Arashi

JN0803142589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Judge 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council speaker and Standing Committee member, today received a British House of Commons delegation, headed by House of Commons Member (Robert Orli), which is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, they discussed parliamentary relations between the two friendly countries and means of improving them.

Iranian Official Arrives in Sanaa 8 Mar

JN0803143189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of the Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Sanaa today leading a delegation on a visit to our country. He was received by Brother Judge Muhammad Lutfi al-Sabahi, head of the office for legitimate grievances at the Presidency and member of the Yemeni Scientific Society; a representative from the Presidency Protocol Department; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Further on Jannati Visit

JN0803184489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Brother Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of the Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Sanaa today. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SABA', the Iranian official stated that during the visit, he will convey a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message deals with the current situation in the Arab world. It is also connected with what conspiracies are facing the Islamic nation and its supreme doctrine, and urges a unified position toward these matters, including the book "The Satanic Verses".

Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Mar

JN0903181289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Ayatollah Jannati, member of the Council of the Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Sanaa this afternoon following a 2-day visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the Iranian official described his meeting with 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, as fruitful. He touched on issues of interest to the Islamic world. He pointed out that their views were identical and concerted, and condemned the plots facing the Islamic nation and its ideology and sanctities. He said that his meeting with the brother 'ulema and judges has reflected the clear Islamic spirit.

Concluding his statement, Jannati expressed thanks to our country—leadership and people—for its generosity and hospitality.

Seeing him off were Brother Muhammad Lutfi al-Sabahi, head of the grievances section at the Presidency, a representative for the Presidency Protocol Department; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Iranians Fire At 11th Division Units 13 Mar

JN1403093889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—The Iranians opened fire on our units in the 11th Division at 2013 [1713 GMT] yesterday.

Our units replied in kind to the source of fire. The international observers have been informed in accordance with the ackowledged procedures. [Dated] 7 Sha'ban, 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 14 March 1989

UNIIMOG Investigating

JN1403134089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1252 GMT 14 Mar 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (WAKH)—A UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] official has said that action is being taken to deal with the firing incident on the border last night.

UNIIMOG official spokesman Salim Fahmawi said the international observer team is the party concerned with this incident.

Earlier today, Iraq accused Iran of opening fire on the Iraqi 11th Division units at 2013 yesterday.

A statement carried by Iraqi official news media here said that the Iraqi units replied in kind to the source of fire and that the international observers had been informed in accordance with the acknowledged procedures.

Fahmawi said an exchange of fire took place a short time ago in the southern sector.

He said UNIIMOG is investigating the case to identify the initiator before returning the situation to normal.

The Iraqi statement did not say whether the Iranian fire caused human or material losses.

Saddam Husayn Discusses 'Democracy' Policy, Iran

PM1003114089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 89 pp 4-5

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Basra—date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Umayr] After a long introduction I addressed my first question: Is there a really serious approach to democracy in Iraq, and how far can President Saddam Husayn go with democracy?

[Saddam Husayn] You ask whether we are serious about our proposal? Of course we are serious about it, because we have been serious about everything we have said and we have never neglected any proposal we have made, nor dealt with one in anything but a serious manner. The record in this regard is clear since 17-30 July 1986 until the present, whether regarding international, Arab, or internal policy. So when we raise the question of democracy, we do not do so superficially. This is because we do not use democracy as a superficial slogan, as some countries do in a crisis, when they raise slogans invoking that crisis and then decide which can be applied. But we have no crisis. We proposed that democratic participation be deepened and extended after victory was won. This is what we proposed, and no questions have been raised at the grassroots level about it being unfamiliar to their attitudes or every day lives.

So this came as an initiative from us. It is consistent with our seriousness in all other matters. But what I want is that all Arabs understand the actual conditions in Iraq, which the state of war may have eclipsed: that is, that they see them as they are supposed to be or as they actually are. Democracy is part of the situation in Iraq, but it is different from the Western approach to democratic freedoms in the liberal countries. For instance, the National Assembly, which is a legislative council, was elected, as you know, in the summer before the war.

The tradition of many states is that, in time of war, they freeze representative institutions of that kind, or at least limit their powers. But here the National Assembly was given more and greater powers than those stipulated by law. Among the additional powers is the National Assembly's right to inspect and question all government departments, to declare no-confidence in ministers and the prime minister, and to recommend to the head of state that he relieve any of them of their posts.

When the war broke out elections were supposed to be held for a local legislative council for the Kurdistan autonomous region, under which an executive council would be formed. Some brothers asked: Will we continue with this despite the war? The elections had not yet been held in the autonomous region. I said: Yes. What is required now is the exercise of this kind of democracy during the war, for even stronger reasons than before the war. And indeed the elections were held during the war. The two councils—that is, the legislative and the executive—for the Kurdistan autonomous region were elected during the war. The elections continued without interruption during the war and we compelled—which is perhaps not totally democratic according to the Western liberal concept—the people's organizations to field more than just a single candidate in the elections. In addition, we said that if they contested the elections with only one candidate and no rivals, the elections would be considered null. This does not happen in Western liberal societies. This is why all union and professional organizations now contest any elections with at least two candidates to ensure competition between them, even if both are Ba'thist. The important thing is that at least two candidates compete in the elections. The other side of the elections is probably invisible, since nominations for organizations, unions, and the National Assembly are not confined to the party's candidate. The elections are open to the people as a whole.

In Iraq the state grants equal publicity to all candidates, which does not happen in liberal democratic states. And the state also provides equal financial support for candidates' election campaigns. In this we proceed from a fundamental concept, namely, that the citizen must not overcome his rivals due to financial resources alone. Therefore the state must grant candidates equal publicity—regardless of their inclinations, parties, and character—and finance their campaigns, and prepare everyone for the elections without exception or discrimination.

But in Western states election results are largely dependent not on competence or prestige alone, regardless of wealth but, rather, on financial resources or financial prestige or, let us say, on the general capacity to exert influence, including the use of various financial resources. On this basis I say that the democracy we are pursuing in our country, and which we will develop after the war ends to achieve more progress, is not a copy of what is happening in the West, though it is not isolated from the concepts and attitudes that exist worldwide. This is what I wanted to say.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, with regard to party freedom, what form will it take? Will it be inside or outside the National Front? I have noticed some restrictions on the parties that existed in Iraq before the war.

[Saddam Husayn] Actually the National Front, which still stands, was established according to our general approach, which was to open the door to the other parties to express their goals, positions, and policies in such a way that would build and preserve the country after the war. Now that the war is over, and in view of these policies, the National Front is supposed not to continue. This is our plan, namely, for the National Front to be dissolved when we have advanced along that road and when every party is established as an active political entity and has proved its status in, and influence on, the national politics through its strength in the National Assembly. This is shown by the number of representatives it has in the National Assembly, elected by the people. So the parties to be formed will not be National Front members, because the National Front will have been dissolved by then.

[Al-'Umayr] As a journalist, I would like to know when the Iraqi people will have an entirely free and diversified press?

[Saddam Husayn] When we open the door to the formation of parties, let us assume that the parties then have their newspapers: Will these papers be confined to the parties or will others outside the parties be allowed to have their own papers? We are still discussing this matter at leadership meetings. It has not been finally settled, but we have raised the following ideas: We have said that that the parties to be formed must have their own papers, and that is final. But does the present situation prompt us to grant others outside the parties the freedom to publish papers?

If we permit the publication of papers outside the parties we will enable those that are financially capable of publishing papers to do so. Then the papers will express the views of the owners who have the financial resources. So, in general, for the papers to be genuinely free they must not be restricted. Restrictions on a paper are not only government restrictions, but restrictions arising from its foundation: if it is founded merely because certain people can finance it, in practice it will represent not the people's opinion but, rather, the opinion of those who finance it and of the group to which it belongs. As is well known, those who are able to finance and publish papers represent a small sector even within their own group, not the majority of the people.

But the positive side—and we have talked about the negative side—is that when such papers speak on the parties' behalf they will depart from the the framework of the parties' policy or thinking. So perhaps it is beneficial that they be nonparty papers in dealing with certain matters from another angle: that is, from a point of view independent from the party, though still not independent from the source of finance and foundation referred to earlier.

This matter is still being debated by the leadership. At any rate, the timing is important. Just as the timing of any step in the West is important in the life of its states and societies, so it is believed—and more so—that the timing of whatever steps we take in life is equally important. The present situation in France, namely, the exercise of freedoms and democracy, is not like the situation 100, 50, or even 30 years ago. But the present situation in France, England, or the United State is a reflection of the development achieved in the various fields of life, including the present capability and thinking of the French, English, U.S., or Polish citizens.

So a parallel system—where we simply copy England, France, or the United States—is unsound. This is because by following their model by imitation rather than interaction, we would be committing a historic mistake that could bring about dictatorship in the place of democracy . In human terms, interaction is needed in all movements throughout the world. But I caution against the parallel system of copying others' experiments. This is because by so doing we would be ignoring not only our national and pan-Arab characteristics, history, and thinking, but also the evolutionary factor. We would be copying formulas that do not represent the essence or stage of our particular evolution.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, let us move on now to the Iraqis outside Iraq. With regard to the call for their return and the amnesty you have granted, to what extent do you allow free travel and an open-door policy, whether at the economic or social level?

[Saddam Husayn] At the economic level, you are familiar with our laws. They are open to whoever wants to review them. There are a number of books that explain our economic program in general, because we are Arabs and Muslims and have our own heritage. But the essence is a particular path we have chosen because we believe it is the best for making the greatest number of people happier. This is the essence of our policy. It is explained in a number of books and pamphlets. But the new economic policy reflecting that essence in accordance with the present phases of development can be found in a booklet entitled "Economy and Administration in Society." It includes statements I made and methods I mentioned in the Council of Ministers and among the supreme state leadership. The state is pursuing it now. Comrade Muhsin Khalil, [presidential press adviser] will give you a copy of it. It will not take long to read; you can read it in the plane. Then you will have a complete picture of our present economic policy.

With regard to general social issues, no step is taken in any field in isolation from the general situation and the policies resulting from it—or that is what should happen in practice among the people who formulate the overall plans. Having talked about expanding the framework of democratic practice and participation in decisionmaking with regard to public freedoms in the country, it is all the more important to deal with social issues in a way that does not conflict with the essence of what we are determined to do in the fields we mentioned.

On this basis, freedom of movement is natural in all societies, and so it was in our society before war broke out. But why did we put restrictions on travel after the war? Because men are required to fight on the front, not to travel. This is because the entire country is threatened. You or others may ask: Why have we not allowed travel on a large scale after the cease-fire? The answer is that travellers want us to provide foreign currency for their travel. And because our country has fought for 8 years and used up a great deal [of resources], we cannot now include travel among the priorities to be acquired by foreign currency. So there is a practical issue facing the country. It is not through any desire or general policy on our part, but due to our inability to provide foreign currency for free travel to enable Iraqis abroad to present themselves in a manner consistent with their country's reputation. If we allowed travel without the state's being committed to any kind of currency transfer, we would be encouraging Iraqis to consider travel—not always clearly—regardless of available resources. We would also be putting them into a situation against their own interests, as they could find themselves in dire straits because their resources were insufficient to acquire items they need or to maintain their living standard outside Iraq. This is the situation now: It is connected with a particular period and, God willing, we will allow travel at the appropriate time in the future.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President—long may you live—I visited Baghdad twice a long time ago and was actually surprised by the beautiful things and huge projects undertaken there. But I have noticed the high prices while touring Baghdad's markets. The Iraqi citizen has undoubtedly suffered from the war and has struggled under your leadership. Are there any measures to ease high market prices that are at odds with with citizens' incomes?

[Saddam Husayn] It is true high prices do exist in the Iraqi market. Prices began to soar 2 years ago, even before the war stopped, for a fundamental reason, namely, the diminution of our resources during the war. We used to remedy commodity shortages though imports. But as our foreign currency resources decreased, so did our resources for meeting the public's needs. As a result, inflation and prices rose. Furthermore, another policy led to higher prices, namely the lifting of price restrictions. Before then there were restrictions on the prices of imported and locally-produced commodities. Then we began the to allow imports without foreign transfers. To encourage imports without foreign transfers to cover certain requirements, we lifted the price restrictions. If we had not lifted the price restrictions importers would be concerned about what they pay for things and the profit they expect to make on them. This is why we kept our hands off prices.

In addition to this, we also kept our hands off the prices of local products because, in line with our economic thinking based on experience, we decided to maintain particular prices while bearing the major commodity shortages resulting from the reduction of our foreign import resources. We decided to leave pricing open and to bear the price pressure for a period of time until commodities were available to meet the demand. Then prices would be in balance.

So what happened? Not only did we lift restrictions on commodities or their prices, but restrictions on labor as well, in the sense that we allowed free prices for labor. Labor, except in the case of state employees, is priced freely. So in practice workers, other than state employees, have not suffered. This is because when commodity and services prices rose in the market, the value of their work in the market also rose. For instance, the value of the work done by the barber, car mechanic, refrigerator or television technician, or jeweler also increased. So there is no harmful effect. But it is state employees who have suffered, because the state employee's salary is fixed, inasmuch as he knows that he will earn 100 or 200 dinars, which cannot be increased unless he is promoted or given an allowance to which he is entitled in accordance with the law and his grade scale. So state employees suffer most. What will we do about this?

The state had a number of stores throughout Iraq. They were managed directly by the state. Iraqi, Arab, and foreign citizens were entitled to purchase whatever they wanted from them.

But these stores are now confined to state employees and martyrs' families. We have begun to provide Iraqi-produced commodities for these markets. We have obliged the markets to sell some Iraqi-produced commodities at a price 25 percent lower than that of other similar commodities in the market. And in this way we have resolved this problem to a certain extent. Also, not all commodities and goods are without fixed prices. There is a special subsidy for basic food items such as sugar, bread, tea, and certain other items.

[Al-'Umayr] Have the subsidies on them not been lifted?

[Saddam Husayn] No. Not unless we we find a way to increase employees' wages. Then we would consider raising the prices of some of the items subsidized by the state, because in general it is not employees alone who benefit from such items: They are available to all citizens.

In addition, state employees have special privileges. For instance, no apartment, house, or land is sold to the state before being offered to employees. If rejected by an employee, other citizens apart from the employee are then offered the opportunity. There are a number of provisions from which state employees benefit more than other citizens in general. But employees' salaries remain as they are—but this is not forever. What is required in the future, with God's help, is an increase in salaries—within certain limits.

But we have two kinds of employees: employees covered by a law called "The Civil Service Law," most of whom carry out non-production work or, rather, service activities whose value is difficult to determine accurately in financial terms. As for the employees who work under the company system, they now share the profits with the companies. In practice company employees now benefit from any increase in prices, because it increases their resources and consequently their salaries, since they share the profits, thus increasing their financial resources. But the ones who suffer most are non-company employees, as we said.

The military's financial resources have not increased through salary increases. That group of employees and military personnel are now the focus of our attention. And, God willing, the matter will be dealt with in the light of our resources development.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, when a journalist goes to a civilized country he always finds intellectual and cultural values to turn to and communicate with. They become symbols of that country. It has been observed that when you look for intellectuals and thinkers in Iraq you tend to find them outside Iraq. Does President Saddam Husayn, who is known to be an intellectual before being a leader, plan to return intellectual and cultural life to Baghdad?

[Saddam Husayn] You have probably had more opportunity to meet with Iraqis outside Iraq than with the true Iraqi intellectuals and thinkers who have broader capabilities and remain inside this country. But this does not mean that there are no thinkers or intellectuas outside the country. But the number of them outside the country corresponds to the number of Iraqis inside the country, with a small increase calculated on the basis that those who travel outside the country are seldom from the low income social groups. So proportionately, as we have explained, there are thinkers and intellectuals, but the greater proportion are inside Iraq. And, God willing, when you have the time and return to our country, Iraq, you will find it full of intellectual and cultural capabilities in all fields and at all levels.

[Al-'Umayr] Before moving on from Iraq's internal issues to other subjects, do you see—within a democracy, of course—any justification for the existence of the revolutionary court or the RCC, for instance? Do you believe there will be influence or control?

[Saddam Husayn] In our discussions so far, the leadership has agreed unanimously on the need to maintain the RCC. As for the revolutionary court and similar institutions, I can reveal that we have not yet broached these subjects in our discussions. But the main thing is that we have defined the general intellectual and political line, in the light of which, as the press has reported, committees have been formed—one for the constitution, one for parties, and another for the press. These committees will be formed according to concepts that we have endorsed and documented and are now being discussed extensively within the leadership.

We went through the following stages: We discussed the general policy and ideas that we believe are suitable for the present stage. We agreed on them within the leadership. Then we decided to go down to the level of the ministers who are not leadership members and to the party cadres level to conduct a more extensive dialogue on the concepts endorsed by the leadership. This would also enable those sectors not only to enrich the leadership's thinking with their ideas, but also to enhance their ability to take initiatives, participate in development, and lead the dialogue within society. This is what we have agreed.

As for the revolutionary court and other such matters, obviously it will be looked into in line with the basic general concepts. But for your information only, the revolutionary court does not consist of a number of military officials, as in some Third World countries. It consists of men of law (jurists). Besides, it consists not, as people imagine, of party elements of a certain level, but of people selected to implement the court's law. And trials in the court are conducted as trials are conducted in any other court, with for certain exceptions—most importantly, that the only legislative body that can oppose, repeal, approve, or commute a ruling is the leadership. In other courts the ruling is submitted to the court of cassation [supreme court of appeals] and then the leadership. That link, namely the court of cassation, does not exist among the legal procedures of the ruling.

[Al-'Umayr] Is there any intention to separate the party from the state?

[Saddam] Mechanical separation is not possible, because the party leads society not by legal compulsion but, rather, by its capabilities. So mechanical separation is not possible. But what is happening now? Does the party organization in this city, Basra, direct the governor and the other circles directly? Basra has a governor, police chief, and security chief. The party leads, organizes, and mobilizes the masses. But does the party ignore any act it considers a violation of the supreme leadership's policy in the country? The answer is "no." Can it tell the governor directly: You have made a mistake and you must correct it? The answer is "no." The party expresses the leadership's view. And the supreme leadership must intervene by virtue of its constitutional position, not as a regional command but through other formulas. For instance, the RCC or the president of the republic can tell that governor: We have heard that you have made certain errors. What is your comment? If he says that there are no such errors, then the matter is finished if the higher authority is convinced. But if he says that the mistakes did occur, he should be asked to correct them, and that is that. These are the limits of party and state intervention. We have long pursued this policy and it is very clear.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you believe the time has come to conduct self-criticism of the 20-year experiment?

[Saddam Husayn] Our position differs from that of the world in general in many respects, and history will bear out what I am going to say. In the world in which such criticism takes place—in the Western world, for instance—criticism occurs after a scandal, in the sense that it occurs as a result of an act that violates the law or policies. That is, criticism occurs as a result of something that has been exposed. In communist states criticism was denied, which is why errors accumulated without any criticism, and the parties acted as though the people were subservient to the party, without expressing their views or asserting themselves. As a result, explosive episodes of criticism occurred from time to time, whenever new leaders assumed the supreme leadership. This is the reason for what is happening, in terms of criticism, in the Soviet Union, Poland, or other states. As for us, we have not allowed mistakes to accumulate. We have exercised criticism openly before the masses. For instance, the first open and direct seminar with the public, answering their questions directly and listening to their criticism, was held in 1969 in a open yard known as the the scouting yard. In that year I told the public: You must not grant your loyalty to our regime hastily; you must grant your loyalty on certain conditions—and this is recorded in pictures and sound. Do not say that the regime is good, but say that a measure is good—that is, if you believe it is a good measure. Because if you say the regime is good prematurely, it could produce surprises to dash your hopes. I personally said this to the people.

So we did not erase the mistakes in order to exercise the criticism process in the way we mentioned. We have even conducted criticism against our economic system. We exercised a large-scale and open criticism process on television in 1977 under the title "Seminar on Low Productivity and how To Deal With it." Some of the leadership's thinking and erroneous policies were criticized directly. There was also direct criticism of state employees. An alternative program was proposed in 1977. I myself exercised that process. The people as whole heard those seminars and all the participants spoke and corrected and criticized one another as they liked. We made our own mistakes in the economic program, which is why we have criticized them openly before the people since 1977. We explained the phenomenon and the mistakes, and then offered the people the alternative. Even on regular visits: I once went to Mosul, where I saw thousands of sheep. I asked: What are these? They said they belonged to the state. And the same thing happened in Al-Kut. So I criticized this openly before the people. Then we sold the sheep owned by the state to the citizens because they are better at livestock raising than the state is. The same happened with regard to the state's poultry farming, cooperative activities of fishermen, and so on. Criticism is continuing here. It has not stopped, so we do what we say.

[Al-'Umayr] This leads me to another question: Have you rehabilitated many of the figures of the previous period, whether from the monarchy or the Qasimite [reference to 'Abd al-Karim Qasim] period? Do you intend, for instance, to rehabilitate some of your former colleagues?

[Saddam Husayn] It is not rehabilitation in the traditional form. We have said that political and intellectual publication, thinking, and dealings should be conducted freely and without appearing to express the state's view or the Culture and Information Ministry's view or remarks. We also said: Deal with all Iraqi figures, whether present or absent. But do you think a person associated with the July revolution march will be dealt with objectively?

[Al-'Umayr] It is possible at present.

[Saddam Husayn] It will not be objective. Because what is written about him will be of a particular political character related to personal ends rather than historical duty or the relevant facts. Nevertheless we have no objection if conscientious and honest historians write about anyone, because we have opened the door to whoever wants to write in his own way. For instance, when I was a young student and party member I went down into the street with a machine gun and hit the regime's symbol in the street, in 1959. And we have no objection to anyone writing about him—I mean 'Abd al-Karim Qasim—according to the publicists' interpretations. We have opened the door to those wanting to write about the monarchy according to his own interpretation.

[Al-'Umayr] We are dozens of kilometers, perhaps more, from the Iraq-Iran front. The president, who uses this oval building as his office, invited me to visit Al-Faw. I gratefully accepted and he asked a number of officials to accompany me. Recalling the sound of gunfire and the hundreds of thousands who have died, I asked him: How do you view the future of relations with Iran and do you hold out any hope for some change, even partial, in the Iranian leadership on which you could build your relations?

[Saddam Husayn] We have often been asked this same question, even under war conditions and by the Iranian opposition. They would ask: Would you establish normal relations with Khomeyni's Iran if he agreed to a cease-fire? We would answer: Yes, we would establish normal relations with Khomeyni's Iran if they agreed to end the war. So, generally speaking, our relations with Iran are determined not on the basis of the nature of the regime there but on the basis of its conduct. If Iran's conduct is harmful to the Arabs, to Iraq, or to us, then naturally the chances of establishing normal relations with Iran would diminish or disappear. However, when Iran behaves normally toward the Arabs and Iraq, in accordance with the general concept of life and international laws, relations between these neighbors would be normalized at least. Moreover, there ought to be an improvement in relations that would end estrangement or ease the atmosphere between neighbors, as between Iran and the Arabs.

The other point, as far as we are concerned, is that we do not believe that there are moderates and extremists as, for example, the West classifies the present Iranian leadership. We believe that the current Iranian leadership erred when it committed an aggression and did not stop fighting until it was defeated militarily—that is, not as a political or ideological choice. That is why—despite the intricacies, circumstances, and past events—we hope that Iran's decision to stop the war becomes a political and ideological choice based on the premise that peace, not war, is the natural law of life.

This, in general, is how we view relations with Iran. It is impossible to establish normal relations before peace is achieved and before there is a peace agreement and stability.

[Al-'Umayr] To what point would you take these relations if that happened?

[Saddam Husayn] It is impossible to establish normal relations before there is peace, a peace agreement, and stability between Iraq and Iran.

[Al-'Umayr] Iran says that Iraqi forces are occupying Iranian territory. Are you considering a withdrawal in return for a demonstration of goodwill or something of that kind?

[Saddam Husayn] Iran's talk of Iraqi occupation of Iranian territory is, as you know, a front to conceal Iran's deviant policies and outlook on war and peace. Comrade Muhsin Khalil could show you on a map the position of our forces before the cease-fire and after the cease-fire. Before the cease-fire our forces were deep in Iranian territory, pursuing and striking the Iranian Army to liberate our own territory. These liberation operations are not limited by the traditional and rigid concept whereby if, for example, 10 km of your territory is occupied, you fight and regain that territory, then return to the borders. These operations involve maneuvers on the wings and in-depth pursuit to regain your occupied territory. So the main aim of our major battles was to liberate our territory and achieve a military result that would force Iran accept peace, having rejected peace otherwise, as you well know. When the battles were raging our Army was deep inside Iranian territory—in places some 70 km inside the borders—but as soon as we began to observe the cease-fire, we withdrew our forces to their starting points and deployed them on the borders. When we say that our Armed Forces are within their borders, it does not preclude either Army from having observation posts on vantage points some meters away from the borders to enable the forces to observe enemy movements. As long as the war has not ended with a peace agreement, the presence of such observation posts and the enhancement of the fortifications of defensive positions are not considered acts of occupation in the traditional sense of the word, unless, as in the case of the Iranian enemy, the declared policies reveal aggressive and expansionist intentions.

Iraq's public policies and intentions confirm that it does not covet Iranian territory in any way. When the cease-fire came into effect, nobody used a ruler to draw a line for the deployment of forces on either side of the border, down to the last soldier and observation post. The Armies acted according to their states' policies. Since our Army was triumphant and the enemy's Army was defeated, we instructed our Army to withdraw to the borders and our forces were deployed as I described, having withdrawn from the depths of Iranian territory to which they had penetrated—as far as 70 km or more in some areas, as I said. If the Iranians proceed toward a solution with goodwill, then both Armies should be within their own own borders to the last soldier and observation post. So that is the situation. Iraq does not have, and has never had, any intention to occupy territory. We are committed to UN Resolution 598, but Iran has maneuvered around that resolution ever since the cease-fire was agreed because, as we have said, the Iranian regime has never subscribed, politically or ideologically, to the belief that peace is the right path and the law of life. It accepted UN 598 and the cease-fire out of necessity. That is why Iran is still maneuvering around that resolution. When the resolution is implemented—and that includes putting marking tape along the borders so that a soldier knows exactly where he stands—there will bo no Iraqi or Iranian soldiers in each other's territory.

[Al-'Umayr] The Shatt al-'Arab waterway and navigation there will, of course, remain one of the main points of dispute between Iraq and Iran. My question is in two parts: First, you have announced your intention to divert the Shatt al-'Arab. Does Iraq believe that this is legal under international law? Also, how does Iraq view compromise solutions such as internationalizing navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab?

[Saddam Husayn] Compromise solutions usually arise for one of two types of reason: legal or practical. The legal reason arises when the rights of conflicting parties are not completely clear with regard to entitlement to a particular thing. The practical reason is invoked when one side is intransigent and has the ability to harm or impose its superiority on the other side, even though that party is in the right legally. Iran is intransigent but lacks the ability to take what is not hers and has been defeated on the battlefield. So Iraq has both the legal right and the superiority. Therefore we no longer accept any so-called compromise solutions at Iraq's expense. We would accept a situation where Iran receives its proper dues and Iraq's rights remain intact. This is our general thinking on the Shatt al-'Arab.

[Al-'Umayr] Will you divert the Shatt al-'Arab?

[Saddam Husayn] There are a number of possibilites regarding the Shatt al-'Arab. One is that we divert the Shatt al-'Arab at a point north of Basra to meet Khawr 'Abdallah. Another is to develop and pull back our ports inward [sahb] to enable exports and imports to flow unimpeded, regardless of whether or not the Basra ports operate. We have begun pulling back our ports on Khawr 'Abdallah to a certain distance inside our territory, and we have made great strides in that direction through national efforts and private companies.

Another possibility is still under discussion and is the subject of a feasibility study, and we will carry it out if we discover no other alternative. As you know, the Shatt al-'Arab consists of two parts. One part has Iraqi dry land to the west and Iranian dry land to the east, while the other passes through Iraqi dry land both east and west. At any rate, by all standards and definitions it is an Iraqi river.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, in the past, Iraq expelled a large number of Iranian nationals, and later you changed their position and allowed some of them to return to Iraq. Will they be allowed to submit their cases to you for reconsideration in the interests of those still eager to return to Iraq?

[Saddam Husayn] There is no absolute standard of political conduct and there are no absolute political ideologies regarding any particular humanitarian case. The humanitarian case of the subjects of any state depend on circumstances, possibilities, and the attitude of the two parties to the issues.

One of the factors that encouraged the Iranian regime to attack Iraq was the presence of a large Iranian community in Iraq. Some in that community at the time still had Iranian citizenship, and some were naturalized but remained loyal to Iran, which encouraged Iran. It imagined it could occupy Iraq and threaten the entire Arab homeland within weeks, if not days. These are facts, not speculation.

Another fact is that not everyone of Iranian origin supported Khomeyni, but there were many Iranians in Iraq sympathetic to Khomeyni.

So when a dispute intensifies and the Armed Forces become involved, a state becomes extremely sensitive about its internal security and the home front. When we see that the race and origins of people who have lived off Iraq's resources are prompting them to strike at Iraq, it is our duty to send them out to join their "uncles" [kinfolk], not to leave them here to harm Iraq through divided loyalties or, rather, their loyalty to Iran and opposition to Iraq. Everyone visits his uncle. In the past, when two tribes fought, everyone went to his uncle. They have gone to their uncles; so congratulations to them. We too have remained within the circle of our uncles, the Arabs, for we are part of them and they are part of us. That is what happened.

Regarding the possibility that some of them could live as Iraqis and forget that they, their fathers, or grandfathers once lived in Iran, well, such a possibility exists and the door will not be closed to such people. However, national security will remain the criterion that determines who will or will not be allowed to return, and which people of Iranian origin will or will not be allowed to remain in Iraq. Even those of Indian, Iranian, or Pakistani origins who have acquired Iraqi citizenship, whose behavior conflicts with the country's security and nationalism, and who keep reminding us of their foreign origins, will be told that they no longer qualify for Iraqi citizenship, because the one essential condition of this citizenship is that they become Iraqis In other words, Iraq must take the place of the old roots of their fathers, grandfathers, or themselves in other countries. If their attitude to Iraq shows that they are still loyal to their old roots and that Iraq is merely a place to work and live, then they will not qualify for Iraqi citizenship. That is our policy.

[Al-'Umayr] What is Your Excellency's comment on Iran's clamor about Salman Rushdie's book?

[Saddam Husayn] We must separate two issues here: Salman Rushdie's insult and Iran's attitude. Salman Rushdie has deliberately and knowingly insulted Islam and Muslims. Islamic and Arab world reactions to the insult were to be expected, but the reactions vary. In Iraq, for example, we banned the book a long time ago, before Iran spoke out. As you know, the book was published 6 months ago, last July. Why has the Iranian reaction come now, not then? The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry acted promptly and banned the book.

The Iranian reaction must be linked to political motives. Without dwelling on criticism or the details of the Iranian position, we should distinguish between what we ought to do about this book under existing laws and Iran's behavior, motives, and objectives. It seems to me that Iran's attitude is not distinct from its policies, thinking, and background, with which we are all familiar. However, the book was malicious and has deliberately insulted Muslims. I do not believe that the insult came out of ignorance or the mere expression of opinion on a certain matter. However, we believe that murder and incitement to murder is more harmful to Islam and Muslims than Salman Rushdi's tendentious and sinister book.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, let us now move to Arab affairs and Iraq's role abroad. People are wondering: The Ba'th Party's slogans include unity, freedom, and so on, yet you have confined yourself to a small group of just four states. What do you say about that?

[Saddam Husayn] I believe it is axiomatic that no slogan or principle can fulfill its entire potential without an initial step: Then the process continues as life continues. In our opinion, this also applies to Arab unity, though what we have in the [Arab] Cooperation Council [ACC] is not unity but a step beyond mere bilateral relations, though stemming from bilateral relations among the four states. The ACC, consisting of four states, is not a closed body. It is open to all Arabs. The ACC charter clearly states that the ACC will consider any Arab country's request to join. The ACC was not originally intended to consist of four states, but the opportunity was there for four states to form it. We have begun with four states in the hope of raising the number to five, six, seven, and so on.

[Al-'Umayr] I have heard about your interest or desire to establish some kind of cooperation with other councils such as the [Gulf] Cooperation Council. In what context can that be achieved, in your opinion?

[Saddam Husayn] In the same way as there are bilateral relations between the various Arab states and all are Arab League members. The main idea is that we should be more serious about collective action and cooperation. That is the basic idea. Whenever there is an opportunity for increased cooperation by adding members to the ACC, or for modifying the Arab League charters to improve cooperation—through bilateral relations, through interaction between the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union or the GCC—whenever such opportunities arise, we will be willing to seize them, discuss them, and act in accordance with what we have already said.

I say to our other brothers that the ACC is not closed. It is open to any form of cooperation that we may consider suitable between us and the other councils or between us and the other brothers.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, in the ACC you have talked a lot about or, rather, focused on three issues: noninterference in domestic affairs, economic cooperation or emphasis on economic cooperation, and...

[Saddam Husayn, interrupting] And leadership and how we view it.

[Al-'Umayr] Yes, leadership and how you view it. Could you be more specific on this, and the reasons for the emphasis on it?

[Saddam Husayn] I have nothing to add to my speech to the brothers in the ACC except in clarifying any details or ambiguities regarding these three points. I want to emphasize that these principles are not just for local consumption and are not superficial. We believe in them, and as time passes our faith and conviction that this is the right path for Arab cooperation deepen. If interference in internal affairs continues among Arabs, we will be unable to take a single firm and correct step toward cooperation, because the first prerequisite of cooperation is mutual trust, or at least the confidence that no party or parties are exploiting cooperation to undermine the institutions and regimes of the others. Until we stop interfering in each other's affairs there will never be cooperation between the Arab states. Interference in internal affairs only opens the door for foreigners to enter and act as partners in Arab political affairs, which divides us and damages the genuine relations between our various states.

In the field of economic cooperation there is a more comprehensive outlook than the abstract economic principle. The economic principle is that the bigger the market the greater the chances of selling products in that particular market and the greater the chances of large-scale exchanges and investment opportunities. This is a general economic principle. As long as there is considerable variation in economic growth rates, the national security of the Arab countries, great or small, strong or weak, will be threatened.

For example, Lebanon is a small country compared to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, and other fraternal states, but when Lebanon was undermined and became a snake pit, and when the good people there became helpless and guns began to speak, then the snakes came to bite us in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Arab Maghreb.

As I see it, if Sudan remains hungry, it would only mean more pan-Arab security worries, and it could bring surprises including interference by foreign powers through their aid to Sudan, which they use to export their problems to the Arab world.

So, even in matters of pan-Arab security and principles of pan-Arab action, economic cooperation becomes an Arab necessity and duty.

These are the principles I believe in. They were not all spelled out in my speech before my brothers, the ACC heads of state. We expected a summit conference to be held to express our views on the correct way to promote peaceful Arab relations. But when no summit materialized and an opportunity occurred for the four-state ACC to meet, we concentrated on three of the issues that we still believe should be discussed with the Arab brothers as a whole. Some were included in the speech and some I did not cover in detail. So, noninterference and nonuse of armies against Arabs, and then the matter of the leadership: If each of us wanted first to secure his leadership position in fraternal relations, in cooperation, and in Arab politics before demonstrating the required conduct, then the conflict between Arab states would continue and could affect the foundations on which Arab history has been built from time immemorial, and that would weaken the Arabs.

So let us use the fraternal method of dialogue and let us keep away from the issue of who should lead. In other words, the result of the dialogue should benefit us all, and that result should be our example and our leader, rather than any particular individual, or any country because it is greater in area, population, resources, or military strength. That is our view.

[Al-'Umayr] What is the truth about the contacts between you and Saudi Arabia, in particular. We noticed the presence of some representatives after the council meeting or rather in the past 4 days. We also noticed that the custodian of the two holy mosques made a reference to you personally. Does Saudi Arabia have a role in the cooperation council, or is there something else? Could you tell us?

[Saddam Husayn] Actually, there have been no meetings on what happened in the cooperation council or what is going to happen. We and Saudi Arabia are brothers, and since 1975 our brotherhood has been planned, not based merely on words and feelings. It stems from the conviction that Iraq should have firm, unshakable relations with a number of Arab countries, regardless of the status of its relations with other Arab countries. By that I mean the countries that, as we said, have played a major part in the history of the Arab East in the past, because we believe that these same countries will have a leading role in achieving Arab excellence and in protecting the Arab homeland now and in the future. These countries include Iraq and Saudi Arabia. So it is not just a matter of human fraternity between Iraq and our Saudi brothers, which is deep and significant and which has manifested itself at the most difficult times, such as in relations between my brother Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and myself, and also between the Saudi leadership and our own. Apart from that, there are also practical reasons. As long as we care about the Arabs and their present and future, and as long as we want the Arabs to play a major part in their development and that of mankind, then our relations with Saudi Arabia will be strong; talk of work and cooperation in the greater interests of the Arabs becomes superficial when Arabs do not cooperate and stand together—particularly the influential ones.

Exchange visits between Saudi Arabia and Iraq are not new. They are a continuing process. You may have noticed the constant coming and going of envoys a month or two before before the ACC meeting. Envoys have been coming and going between Iraq and Saudi Arabia for a long time. So this is a continuing process of consultation on all matters—on political affairs, and matters affecting international developments. We exchange views on everything. We discuss how we can cooperate in the interests of all Arabs, including Iraqis and Saudis.

[Al-'Umayr] Shaykh Sa'd's visit to Iraq in particular was special. The question that some—not all—Kuwaitis are asking is this: Iraq has resolved its border problems with many neighboring states and is willing to settle its border dispute with Iran if peace is established and Iran recognizes Iraqi rights; why should this not happen with Kuwait?

[Saddam Husayn] Why not with Kuwait? It is more important that we resolve the problems with Kuwait: There is no justification for comparison with Iran. Iran is a foreign state. Kuwait is a fraternal Arab state that has made contributions to Iraq's combat capabilities. So it is natural for us to resolve the problems. We sent a signal before [Prime Minister of Kuwait] Brother Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah's visit. After liberating Al-Faw we believed that the time was ripe for discussing and resolving the border issue. We have discussed it and we will continue to do so until we achieve results, God willing.

[Al-'Umayr] Are there any Iraqi or Kuwaiti conditions?

[Saddam Husayn] There are no conditions. It is a problem that we and the Kuwaitis inherited. It is not a result of the policies of [Amir of Kuwait] Jabir al-Sabah, or Sa'd al-Sabah, or Saddam Husayn, or 'Izzat Ibrahim, or any other contemporary. It is a problem inherited by the two countries long ago. We must resolve it in a spirit of fraternity, harmony and mutual interests. That is what both countries' representatives confirmed when Shaykh Sa'd visited Iraq.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, you have discussed the role of the Arab League? How can it be revitalized now? When you mentioned the ACC just now you intimated that in the final analysis it would be up to the Arab League.

[Saddam Husayn] No, not in the sense that the ACC would develop into part of the Arab League; but we are members of the Arab League and would like to develop it while the ACC exists and progresses toward fulfillment of its objectives and programs.

You have asked how to revitalize the Arab League and make it more active. The best way is through regular meetings. It was decided at a number of meetings that we would hold annual summit meetings. Meetings provide the opportunity for dialogue and a chance to resolve problems and enhance cooperation.

Another matter that should be studied is the Arab League charter and founding documents. The Arab League was formed in 1945 and the Arab situation has developed and changed into what it is now. So it is appropriate for us to reconsider and examine these documents and to discuss how to incorporate new documents appropriate to the changes in Arab affairs and to our hopes for the future; documents to abolish the idea that resolutions can only be passed unanimously. We should pass resolutions by majority vote. Although we are only four sovereign states in the ACC, we have adopted the principle of decisions by majority vote and confirmed that such decisions would be binding on the rest when passed by a majority, except when accepting new members or amending the charter, which should both be by a unanimous vote. With these two exceptions, ACC resolutions are passed on a majority basis and are binding on all members. At least within the Arab League we could reach decisions by a majority vote—decisions that would be binding on those convinced by them or who would subsequently become convinced by them: we would be facilitating the work and development of the Arab League as a serious establishment for Arab reunion and for the exchange of policies, ideas, and measures.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, let us return to the Egyptian question. During my stay here I have read that reporters asked Tariq 'Aziz about complaints that the presence of Egyptian workers has caused higher prices, and so forth. Nevertheless there are reports that you want to bring more Egyptians to Iraq—more than 1 million, it is said—to rebuild or cultivate the Euphrates plain. Is this true?

[Saddam Husayn] Actually no such projects are being considered. The point is that the Egyptians are Arabs—and they are Arabs who generally do not create problems. In any aspect of social conduct—whether of Iraqis, Egyptians, Syrians, Saudis, or Moroccans—there will be something to criticize, of course, but Egyptians in general are Arab brothers whom we trust. While they have been working in Iraq, under the most difficult wartime conditions and despite their large numbers, experience has confirmed that problems with them are not comparable to the problems that would certainly arise if a similar number came from another Arab country, including Iraq. In other words, if the same number of Iraqis went to Egypt they would create more problems there than the Egyptians have created in Iraq.

It is our policy in specific projects, such as reconstruction of the Euphrates plain or other projects, to offer employment to our Egyptian brothers. The door was open to them even before the war, it remained so during the war, and it is still open after the war for them to work and live in Iraq like Iraqis. This is our general law. All Arabs are treated like Iraqis in every way.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, do the activities of Kurdish groups abroad concern you? Is there any intention to allow the repatriation of many of them now in Europe and Turkey?

[Saddam Husayn] Any official of any country is certainly annoyed when his compatriots —or people regarded as compatriots—take a position against their country and its policies. This is a human characteristic, but we must remember that since 1961 to this day, northern Iraq has been a fertile field for foreign intelligence activities. This does not mean, however, that all opposition to our policies in northern Iraq is caused by foreign intelligence, because I would not be objective if I said that. Nonetheless, the facts confirm—as do all the documents, including the statements by Israeli officials—that Israel was involved in one way or another in the northern region when Barzani took up arms against us. Iran and the United States were also present and there was coordination among the three.

The other point is that, because of the continuing abnormal conditions in northern Iraq, some Kurdish elements have developed characeristics similar to those found in Lebanon whenever there is a chance of a serious solution restoring stability. Abnormal circumstances bring abnormal benefits or, shall we say, abnormal gains, such as fame and political and financial gains. In Kurdish circles forces have emerged that enjoy such gains as we have mentioned, gains that they would not receive if normal conditions were restored. This is why we do not expect such forces to accept the restoration of normal conditions in Iraq. These forces created a major crisis for the Kurdish people as a whole when they played a part in bringing the Iranians into Iraqi territory through the northern region of Iraq and nearly allowed the occupation army to reach the town of Al-Sulaymaniyah. It actually came close, but the Iraqi Army was ready and, supported by a large number of loyal Kurds, it repelled the invasion of Al-Sulaymaniyah and defended the towns of northern Iraq. Those who committed that high treason must pay the price. If they do not pay the price then the distinction between what is patriotic and what is unacceptable in the autonomous region of northern Iraq will not be clear.

Yesterday we signed a decree of general amnesty for the Iraqis as a whole and the Kurds in particular. It is valid for 30 days starting 1 April through the end of April. Under this amnesty, those abroad must return to their country and live in it as patriots and in dignity.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President—long may you live—is that enough? I mean is that period sufficient?

[Saddam Husayn] We believe that 1 month is enough for those who want to come. Those who are not content with 1 month are in fact those who have not decided to return. We do not imagine all the authors of anti-Iraq slogans abroad will return to Iraq. We are under no such illusion and harbor no such hope, though we do wish that all the bad ones would reform and return to their homeland and behave normally there. We estimate that 1 month is sufficient because it does not begin to elapse until 1 month after the decision's announcement. In other words, they will have 2 months to decide whether or not to return to Iraq.

[Al-'Umayr] If someone wished to come to Iraq and then leave, would he be able to do so?

[Saddam Husayn] The decision covers that too. Anyone who has work or studies to return to will be free to do so but he must demonstrate that he has returned home to benefit from the pardon.

[Al-'Umayr] It was rumored after the war that some of the battle commanders who played a part in the war and in defending Iraq have been removed from their posts, and have kept away or have been kept away, or something of the kind. Is this true, Mr President?

[Saddam Husayn] The Army is a military institution but it is also composed of human beings. In other words, the military is no more than its living human beings. As in the civil service, where some become senior administrators and are then pensioned off, there is also path in the military establishment that leads retirement. It may not be widely known that in our Army the command term is only 4 years, which means that anyone holding a command position in the Armed Forces holds that position for 4 years, after which he is transferred. What has happened with regard to the men prominent in the battlefield is that, in the normal course of events and because of different abilities, some have continued in their commands and fought in Al-Qadisiyah, while others were pensioned off after that: But they are all honored and lead a normal life in society.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, there have been rumors about a coup d'etat conspiracy. What is the truth about that?

[Saddam Husayn] We too have heard about such fabrications, which are really ridiculous—ridiculous in your country, Iraq, or by any standards. Anyone currently contemplating a coup must first consider: Would the Army accept such an idea, and would the people tolerate it for days or even hours? What would a potential coup plotter tell the people or the Army? There is nothing that can plunge the Army, the people, and national politics into a crisis, regardless of intentions, that would precipitate a coup. I do not know what foreign forces hope to achieve by talking about a coup.

[Al-'Umayr] It is obviously a fabrication.

[Saddam Husayn] Certain powers, especially Zionism, have for some time been unable to bear the idea of an Arab victory in battle. They do not want the Arabs to triumph because that triumph would affect them and their own ambitions. I am confident that, after Iraq's victory, there is not a Jew in the world who thinks that Israel has a chance of expanding at the Arabs' expense. Moreover, the view is at last beginning to emerge among world Jewry that Israel must reexamine its aggressive policies, its outlook, and its assumption that its military superiority over the Arabs is permanent and that therefore it can expand at the expense of Arabs interests and rights. So it seems that Zionism, reflecting on the Jewish situation, is very unhappy about the Arab victory. That is why they are constantly fabricating stories to undermine the image of the Arabs and of Iraq, such as claiming a coup or something of the kind in Iraq.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, the public has enthusiastically welcomed the step you took against 'Udayy [Saddam's son, accused of murder]. Allow me to ask you this: What are the latest measures taken? We have heard that he is abroad. Was that a kind of deportation, or...

[Saddam Husayn, interrupting] Legal measures were taken against him. He then decided to avoid embarrassment with his friends and acquaintances and in society by going to study in Switzerland. He stayed there with his uncle Barzan, Iraq's representative in Geneva, but it seems that he could not endure the life and atmosphere there, so he returned to Iraq. He is now in Baghdad.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr President, allow me to ask you a final question—and I promise you it will be the last one.

[Saddam Husayn] Feel free. I do not mind. This is a good opportunity and you are welcome.

[Al-'Umayr] How does Saddam Husayn plan the next 10 years in Iraqi and Arab affairs?

[Saddam Husayn] In Iraq itself, we are seeking long-term stability and we want the Iraqi character to develop its capabilities, work, and thought fully to play its full part in construction and development; and we want a prosperous Iraq in every field, for constant improvement. In Arab affairs, we want to contribute to deeper fraternity among all Arabs from our own humble position. We want relations based trust and an end to altercations and fabrications in the Arab world. We want hatred and feuds between Arabs to give way to objectivity, in the interest of all Arabs, in accordance with principles that you know and that we have frequently expressed to our Arab brothers. We hope to be able to implement all this in Iraq's relations with our brothers.

Arens Comments on Meetings With Bush, Baker

TA1403073289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Washington by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 13 March, following the foreign minister's meetings at the White House—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Good day to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good day.

[Ben-'Ami] You have concluded an intensive day of meetings in Washington with President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, National Security Adviser Scowcroft, and Vice President Quayle. How do you sum up the meetings?

[Arens] This was the first chance for the new Israeli foreign minister, representing the government which was elected on 1 November 1988, to meet with representatives of the new U.S. Administration, which was elected on 8 November 1988. These meetings should actually be seen as another link in the chain of previous meetings. I assume the next meeting will be with the prime minister, who will arrive here at the beginning of April.

[Ben-'Ami] Has the exact date already been fixed?

[Arens] We have just been discussing an exact date that will suit all parties. The Americans have suggested a date, and we are checking to see if it suits the prime minister, but I assume the visit will take place at the beginning of April.

We exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, especially regarding the peace process. We examined various alternatives in an attempt to further the peace process. I think we have a mutual understanding that coordination of the U.S. and Israeli positions is a prerequisite for a successful initiative.

[Ben-'Ami] Can we try to roughly outline what has been agreed upon between Israel and the United States regarding the process and the nature of the negotiations, if and when they start?

[Arens] I would not say that we have agreed on details at this stage. We addressed principles, primarily the importance of promoting the peace process and coordinating U.S.-Israeli policies. We seem to have agreed on one detail: the important role Jordan must fulfill in the process. Jordan is a key player; therefore, steps must be taken to involve Jordan in the peace process in the region.

[Ben-'Ami] I understand that the uprising in the territories must be stopped as part of the first stage. Did the proposals published in the NEW YORK TIMES at the beginning of the week crop up in your discussions with President Bush or with Secretary Baker? I am referring to the measures suggested to Israel and the Palestinians to ease the tension in the territories.

[Arens] These proposals were not mentioned. The secretary of state emphasized the advisability of reducing the level and scope of violence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and I told him that we are more interested than any other party in lowering the level of violence. The question, of course, is how to achieve this.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the U.S Administration waiting for Shamir to bring new ideas when he visits Washington?

[Arens] The U.S. Administration is certainly interested in hearing our proposals, especially those of the prime minister. As I said, there is a desire to consolidate a coordinated position, and that is the reason the administration would like to be familiar with our views.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you yourself deal with any practical proposals?

[Arens] I also suggested a number of alternatives and reviewed the situation. I hope that I succeeded in laying the groundwork for the prime minister's visit.

[Ben-'Ami] Was the Soviet role in a political process in the region also discussed in the course of your meetings?

[Arens] This issue was also discussed. We talked about the proposal to hold an international conference. A number of statements were made before I arrived in Washington, and I think it is quite clear that the administration is not very enthusiastic about the idea of an international conference. I expressed my opinion that such a conference cannot contribute to promoting the peace process. I respect the good intentions of a number of countries, such as the Soviet Union, to become involved in the process, but in my opinion this is not the way.

[Ben-'Ami] Would you sum up the first meeting between the Israeli foreign minister and the new U.S. Administration as positive?

[Arens] I think the meetings were good. I would not like to exaggerate the importance of this achievement because, after all, we are merely building on the very solid foundation formed over the years, especially during President Reagan's term. Against the background of these excellent relations, I think we can safely expect meetings between the Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. President and secretary of state to be successful.

U.S. Dialogue With PLO Raised

TA1403110289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Washington by IDF Radio anchorman Mikha Friedman in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, good day.

[Arens] Good day.

[Friedman] When you began your meetings this morning, it had already been reported that another squad of terrorists belonging to the PLO was eliminated only a few hundred meters from the northern border en route to one of our settlements to carry out a terrorist operation. Did you inform your interlocutors of this, and did you ask them how these actions can be considered compatible with the PLO pledge to the United States to cease terrorist operations against Israel?

[Arens] I brought these facts up in the talks I held with President Bush and with the secretary of state. I noted that these are part of a chain of terrorist activities committed by the PLO on the northern border, in addition to the campaign of violence being waged in the territories against civilians, particularly the terrorizing of the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip by the PLO. People suspected of collaborating with Israel or ignoring PLO directives are being murdered. There is no need to add anything further, as the facts speak for themselves. I hope that one day the United States will reach the obvious conclusion.

[Friedman] Did the Americans repeat the formula that has recently become popular with them: that the operations perpetrated by the PLO against Israel from the Lebanese border do not fall within the definition of terror?

[Arens] No, I did not hear this from them. There were a few questions as to the extent of the links between these organizations and the PLO, whether they are Fatah or other elements in the PLO; however, these are mere details. We gave them the appropriate information—namely, that a great deal of the terror operations launched from the northern border are perpetrated by organizations belonging to the PLO and which purportedly recognize Yasir 'Arafat's authority.

[Friedman] Did you ask the United States to stop its dialogue with the PLO in the wake of the recent events?

[Arens] I do not think I should approach the representatives of the United States with such requests. They are familiar with our position regarding the PLO. They realize that in our opinion, the dialogue they are holding does not make a positive contribution to the peace process, to say the least. I feel, however, that they should reach these conclusions by themselves. [passage omitted]

'Tension-Reducing' Measures 'Likely' in April

TA1403102389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel is likely to accede to the American request for tension-reducing measures in the territories, but will rebuff any stated or implied linkage between its actions and the PLO, well-placed sources told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

The Prime Minister's Office last night awaited the report of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on his meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. Before such information reached Jerusalem, knowledgeable sources said that it was unlikely that Baker would explicitly state that Washington was mediating between Israel and the PLO.

Quoting a senior administration official, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported on Sunday that the U.S. proposes that Israel release some of its Palestinian detainees, limit further detentions and reopen Palestinian schools. The PLO would be asked to halt violent demonstrations, block anti-Israeli raids from Lebanon and stop distributing uprising leaflets.

The sources said that measures proposed by the administration, as well as measures contemplated here, are being examined by the Defence Ministry and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Their implementation, in part or in whole, is likely to be timed to precede Prime Minister Shamir's April visit to the U.S. [passage omitted]

Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said Israel should be responsive to the offer. "The U.S. readiness to become a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians has to be welcomed by Israel," Ya'aqobi told Israel Radio. "We have to be ready to negotiate a peace treaty or a political settlement between Israel and the Palestinians who live in the territories, even if they are affiliated, directly or indirectly, with the PLO."

Minister Mordekhhay Gur said that "Israeli-PLO talks today can lead to a disaster, because the differences of positions are so deep." But he endorsed an indirect dialogue, saying "a limited programme of achieving tranquillity by mutual steps ... can lead to a change in the positions followed by elections in the territories."

3 Likud Members Reportedly Negotiated With PLO

TA1403101289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] "Three Likud people a short time ago visited Tunis and met with the PLO leadership in order to attempt to reach an arrangement on ending the uprising."

A report to this effect was spread in New York yesterday, and its content was confirmed by Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni, who is attending the Israeli-Palestinian "Road to Peace" Conference at Columbia University.

The Prime Minister's Office reacted yesterday as follows: "We know nothing about this."

MK Aloni said: "I have heard about it (the trip to Tunis), and as far as I know, this information is correct."

Aloni said she received the report from a senior American personality, adding that the report was later confirmed by another source.

According to the report, the visit of the Likud people was undertaken with the knowledge of Likud elements, but not necessarily with the knowledge of Yitzhaq Shamir. It is claimed that the Likud people discussed ways to put an end to the violence in the territories with the PLO representatives.

The Israelis offered the release of detainees and other concessions in the treatment of residents of the territories in exchange for an end to the uprising. No agreement was reached, however, because the Israelis could not promise their interlocutors what they demanded in return: Israeli recognition of the PLO at a later stage.

Aloni claimed that there is a link between the visit of the three Likud people in Tunis and between the U.S. plan for a "deal" between Israel and the PLO on ending the uprising—a deal reported in yesterday's edition of THE NEW YORK TIMES. MK Aloni claims that the U.S. initiative "is actually an initiative started in Israel. The U.S. plan is a Likud plan."

Shamir Discounts 'Arafat Offer To Visit Israel

TA1303181789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The terrorists are doing everything in their power to disrupt attempts to find a solution in the region said Yitzhaq Shamir during a tour of the north today. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports from the broadcasting van in Shelomi:

[Begin recording] [Zilberman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir toured Nahariyya and Shelomi in the north today to add his weight to the finale in the campaign leading up to the second round of municipal elections. The prime minister called on the candidates to follow the Cabinet's example and unite because it is necessitated by events.

As for the attempted penetration near Kibbutz Ramim last night, the prime minister said that he was not surprised by the terrorists' modes of operation:

[Shamir] Precisely because attempts are being made to resolve the conflict and reach peace in the Middle East, the terrorist organizations have been stepping up their attempts to prevent peace, continue to stoke the fire, and attack Israel. They doggedly pursue their attacks while we persistently and determinedly repel them. We will continue this.

[Zilberman] The prime minister also addressed Yasir 'Arafat's latest statement that he would be prepared to come to Israel and follow in the late Egyptian president's footsteps. Mr Shamir believes the two cases are completely incomparable:

[Shamir] This is yet another public relations gimmick by the terrorist chief. This is yet another manifestation of his old habits. There is nothing serious in it, just as the comparison he drew with Al-Sadat is completely groundless. Al-Sadat came to make peace, he truly wanted to make peace; while this man, the head of the murderers, never contemplates peace. He intends to mislead and throw sand in people's eyes to foil peace. [end recording]

Rabin on Infiltrations, Dialogue With PLO

TA1303182989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Report by Gilat Levi on Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's lecture before diamond merchants at the Ramat Gan Diamond Exchange on 13 March—recorded]

[Text] [Levi] The defense minister arrived at the Diamond Exchange building straight from a tour of the northern border following last night's clash between the army and a terrorist squad. Minister Rabin said that the squad had attempted to enter Israel to kill civilians and take hostages.

[Rabin] This is the third terror squad eliminated in the last few weeks by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] and the South Lebanese Army [SLA], without even managing to approach the border. There is no doubt that the terrorist war from Lebanon continues. It is foiled by the IDF with the assistance of the SLA. This is the reality that confronts us from the north, from Lebanon.

[Levi] The defense minister also commented on the suggestions made by the United States that it serve as middleman in negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Rabin said: I suggest that people not rush to conclusions. We must wait for the results of Arens' talks with the U.S.

leaders. Even if previous negotiations were held between Israel and the PLO, with the help of U.S. mediation, with an eye to achieving a cease-fire, there is no need to repeat things.

There was also a humorous moment when Moshe Schnitzer, the president of the Israel Diamond Exchange, greeted the defense minister by welcoming him into the drug den. He was alluding to recent media publications about money laundering services rendered to Colombian drug barons by the Israeli diamond industry. Minister Rabin asked the diamond merchants not to harm Israel's relations with Colombia because Israel's security exports to that country are very important.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 13 March reports that the defense minister also said at the Diamond Exchange that he "hopes that Syria's leaders understand that they are far from achieving strategic parity with Israel." The report adds that Rabin warned the rulers in Damascus that "if they make a mistake, it will have disastrous consequences for them." In the defense minister's opinion, Syria alone does not pose a serious threat to Israel.]

Notes Increase in 'Terrorism'

TA1303082889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The Lebanon war did not wipe out terrorism. Various Palestinian elements were dealt a sharp blow, but terrorist elements such as Hizballah and Amal have begun to operate again, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says. Forty-eight Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] soldiers have been killed since the decision to withdraw from Lebanon and set up the security zone. There has recently been an increase in attempts to attack from Lebanon.

[Begin Rabin recording] There has been an increase in the scope of activity similar to the period 4 or 5 months ago, before the fighting between Amal and Hizballah began. During the Amal-Hizballah fighting, they were busy with each other and could not take time off for activity against the security zone. The Palestinians, on the other hand, were also active before.

The terrorist squad that was wiped out Saturday night—it was not captured alive—apparently included both Palestinian and Lebanese elements. Its aim was to reach Israel; at least, that is how it looks to us. At the same time, there is ongoing activity against the IDF and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the security zone. [end recording]

The peace in the Galilee is being maintained through the day-and-night struggle of thousands of IDF and SLA soldiers. The defense minister also said that in the past year, there were more attempts to attack from Lebanon than in the year preceding the Lebanon war.

SLA Soldier Killed, 2 Hurt in S. Lebanon Blast

TA1403171689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was killed this afternoon when a mine exploded in the security zone in southern Lebanon. Two other SLA soldiers were wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the mine was planted on a patrol road near the village of Bint Jubayl.

Egyptian Officials at Tabah for Transfer Details

TA1403143989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Four Egyptian ministers conferred at Tabah with Foreign Ministry representatives and the hotel owners to finalize pending details on the arrangements to transfer the area to Egyptian control at noon tomorrow. They were the ministers of electricity and energy, finance, transport and communications, and tourism. Electricity and Energy Minister Muhammad Mahir Abaza told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that there has been full cooperation on arrangements being made at the site, to the satisfaction of the Israeli and Egyptian representatives.

Nur 'Afifi, governor of the southern Sinai, said the flag-raising ceremony at Tabah will take place either on Saturday or Sunday. President Mubarak or Prime Minister 'Atif Muhammad Sidqi will attend it. He expressed astonishment at the fact that the Israeli security authorities are incapable of preventing what he called extremists from burning tires and upsetting the transfer of the area to his country in an orderly fashion.

Shamir Greets Arriving 'Prisoner of Zion'

TA1203053489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Former prisoner of Zion Yuliy Kosharovskiy arrived in Israel before dawn after long years of waiting. Kosharovskiy was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Shamir. The prime minister said he hoped that many, many Jews would not only leave the USSR, but would come to Israel.

Peres: No Alternative to Palestinians Talks

TA1403123789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres says that he does not expect Jordan to participate in any talks that are not within the framework of an international conference. There is, therefore, no alternative to negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres said that until recently, a dialogue with Jordan had been possible. The opportunity was lost, however, due to the Likud's opposition. Consequently, the Palestinians are the only partners for negotiations. Peres was talking to our correspondent Nati Zilberman in the course of a tour of Nahariyya.

Palestinian Press Office Reopens in Athens

TA1303133389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Mar 89 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Jerusalem office of the Palestinian Press Service that was closed down by Israel at the beginning of the uprising, has renewed its operation in Athens and is disseminating information from there. The office is headed by Raymonda al-Tawil, who is the owner of the newspaper AL 'AWDA. The news department head is Bassam Abu Samiya, who used to manage the Greek office.

Cabinet Approves Weizman's Trip to Cairo

TA1203113289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Economic and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has demanded the resignation of Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal because of what he called poor energy planning. The demand was made at this morning's Cabinet meeting, and came after Shahal reviewed the series of electricity blackouts that took place during winter.

Also at the Cabinet meeting, the ministers approved the trip of Science and Development Minister 'Ezer Weizman to Cairo next week to mark 10 years of peace between Israel and Egypt.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Yehezqel Hamelekh as director general of the Ministry of Economy Planning, and Hanokh Seidman as director general of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Meridor: Planned Settlements To Be Established

TA1303172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Knesset today defeated a no-confidence motion submitted by Tehiya and Moledet by a majority vote. The two factions were complaining that no new settlements were being established in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Justice Minister Dan Meridor responded on behalf of the Cabinet. He said that the eight settlements mentioned in the coalition agreement are in the planning stages. He added that the Cabinet will ensure that the necessary funds for both government and private settlements are found. This was agreed upon by all the coalition members he said. Therefore, I cannot imagine that any party would try to deny its commitment.

Civil Administration Head Erez Meets Locals

TA1203151689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, met today with a group of approximately 30 notables from the Hebron area. The meeting took place in Dura. Responding to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus, Brig Gen Erez said that the meeting was part of the Civil Administration's policy of holding contacts with all sectors of the population to show the local residents that Israel is willing to confer with Palestinian figures. Brig Gen Erez said that, although these notables express their support for the PLO, he senses their great frustration over the lack of progress toward a solution to their problem.

Galilee Arabs Resume Aid for Territories

TA1203090189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Galilee Arabs are resuming their aid for the Arabs in the territories. Several trucks loaded with food and medicine left for Gaza and Nabulus yesterday, mainly from Shefar'am. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the food collection drive will continue until the end of this week, following requests made of Galilee Arab public leaders by leaders in the territories.

Employees Ordered To Reject PLO Payments

TA1303111589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Mar 89 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] The Civil Administration in Nabulus has required its Palestinian employees to sign forms committing them not to accept money from the PLO or other hostile organizations, following moves by the PLO to pay monthly salaries to Civil Administration employees, sources in the city said yesterday.

The written commitments carry a penalty of five years in jail and a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 105,000 fine for violators, according to reports from Nabulus. [passage omitted]

Islamic Movement Leaflet Attacks Israel, PLO

TA1203054489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] A new leaflet issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement attacks Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and accuses Israel of waging an economic war against the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The leaflet also attacks the PLO, saying it is kneeling before the Jews and begging the United States to speak with it. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the leaflet called for a fast this week.

Successful Appeals on Detention Declining

TA1203101589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 89 p 6

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] As of 7 February 1989, the Military Appeals Committee had received 4,414 appeals against administrative detentions. Of these, 3,667 were rejected and only 747 were accepted. These figures were included in a report on the Qezi'ot detention center prepared by attorney Tamar Peleg of the Civil Rights Association in Israel.

The report also shows that 455 administrative detainees were released even before their cases were brought before a judge, and that 91 waited for the date specified in their appeal. Attorney Peleg says that the figures show that there has been a large drop in the number of accepted appeals, as shown by the information she gathered up to the end of August 1988.

According to Peleg, it is difficult to fix a date for an appeal hearing of an administrative detention order, and in many cases the waiting time is longer than that called for by Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar. He said: "The appeal must be heard within 2 to 3 weeks at the most from the day it is presented." [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Arab Sources Report Casualties

TA1403112689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 89 p 13

[Report by Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There were violent demonstrations in all parts of the Gaza Strip yesterday. According to Arab sources, a 17-year-old youth from Bayt Hanun was wounded in the stomach by a live bullet. A 16-year-old youth from the same place was wounded in the chest by a bullet and a 26-year-old woman from the Khan Yunus refugee camp was wounded in the head by a live bullet. Another 25 people suffered injuries from beatings and rubber bullets.

According to the Arab sources, two more children were wounded during the evening. The sources claim that 8-year-old Muhammad Zuhayr al-Ajuri, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, was beaten and his left hand broken. Musa 'Abd al-'Aziz from Jabalyah was wounded in the head by a rubber bullet.

On the other hand, the Israel Defense Forces spokesman reported relative calm in the Gaza Strip yesterday, adding that a curfew was clamped on several Rafah neighborhoods. Commerce and studies were conducted normally, and workers left for work as usual. The spokesman did not report any injuries.

Sharif Husayn 'Atawnah from Gaza's Al-Yarmuk neighborhood was murdered yesterday. On his body, which was found in Falastin Square in the city, was a note in Arabic terming him a collaborator and signed by the uprising leadership. 'Atawanah was known to the police as a drug dealer. [passage omitted]

2 Wounded in Gaza Riots

TA1103121489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Two local inhabitants were wounded in Gaza today as Israeli army troops dispersed rioters in the Zaytun and Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhoods. Our correspondent Hasan Abu Zayid reports that the two were taken to Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza.

Arab Youth Dies of Wounds

TA1203182489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Seventeen-year-old Muhammad Khalid Shuran from the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem died today in Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. He was wounded yesterday during a riot in the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy has already been buried. The Israeli army imposed a curfew on Ayda. Five people were injured today in riots with soldiers in Judaea and Samaria.

1 Israeli, 3 Gazans Injured

TA1303173389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] An Israeli driver was hurt by a rock hurled at his vehicle in Gaza this afternoon. He was transferred to the hospital in Ashqelon for medical treatment. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew on some Rafah neighborhoods has been extended. Gaza residents have reported three cases of slight injuries incurred during clashes with soldiers. The curfew on Janin and the surrounding refugee camps continues.

Gaza, Rafah Residents Sentenced

TA1303173789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] A Gaza military court today handed down a 5-year prison sentence to Na'im Hasnin, aged 22 from Gaza, who was found guilty of membership in a local terrorist cell. Its members tried to manufacture a homemade bomb and possessed rifles. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that it transpired in the course of the trial that the cell was uncovered while attempting to make contact with Fatah headquarters in Jordan in order to formally join the organization. The sentence follows a plea bargain arranged between the defendant and the prosecution.

In another trial, a 19-year-old Rafah youth was sentenced to 1 and ½ years in jail for attacking an army patrol with rocks during a curfew.

House of Youth Sealed

TA1403084889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Security forces last night sealed up the home of the Bethlehem youth who stabbed an Israeli soldier in the town yesterday. The youth was wounded during the chase and was subsequently captured. During his interrogation, he confessed to the act. The stabbed soldier was admitted to the emergency ward at Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

The 5-day curfew on the village of 'Isawiyah in East Jerusalem was lifted this morning. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that over 50 people suspected of setting vehicles on fire and hurling firebombs and stones were arrested. Most of the suspects were detained during the first 2 days of the curfew.

Economic Difficulties Foreseen Due to 'Uprising'

TA1103114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Minister Gad Ya'aqobi foresees economic difficulties because of the uprising in the territories this year as well. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that according to Ya'aqobi the intifadah [uprising] cost Israel's economy 1.2 billion Israeli shekels last year, and consumed most of the projected 2.5 percent in economic growth. Minister Ya'aqobi said this was caused by the increase in security expenditures, the drop in exports and tourism, the mobilization of reservists, the adverse effect on labor productivity, and the difficulty in attracting foreign capital investment.

Al-Huss Appeals for End To Wave of Violence

NC1403095789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held contacts this morning with the ambassadors of the major states and other Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Lebanon. He called on them to explain to their governments the tragic situation prevailing in Lebanon and the dramatic conditions occurring in Beirut this morning, when the city woke up to bloodshed and fires that killed over 14 persons and wounded 47 in residential areas.

Al-Huss emphasized the need to urge governments to act immediately to avoid a massacre like that which took place in the western sector of the capital today and to help Lebanon avoid further bloodshed inside and outside the capital. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Huss said that the massacre today which claimed the lives of innocent people is a disgrace to its perpetrators. He said: We heard official statements distributed by mass media in the Eastern area saying that artillery positions returned the fire to silence its sources. We found out that the targets were at the crossroads during rush hours. Those who were silenced by shells were honest citizens who had left their homes to earn an honest living. [passage omitted] What is important now is to urgently end this series of frantic violence.

Army Issues Statement on Security in Beirut

NC1403073589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 14 March]

[Text] After the minister of public works and transports decision to reopen the Beirut airport for traffic facilitating the citizens' movement, those who stand to lose from this decision in West Beirut and the mountain areas began escalating the situation with the support of the Syrian occupation forces. These groups resumed their bombardment of the Beirut port for the 3d day as well as the Juniyah port today. The shelling was also directed at residential areas despite the repeated warnings that they should stop playing with fire and avoid getting involved in the Syrian occupation forces' scheme which aims to spark inter-Lebanese fighting.

The command has learned that the Syrian occupation forces will increase the bombardment to involve all residential areas and quarters. The Army Command, therefore, calls on all schools to close their doors and urges the citizens to stay out of the streets and to take precautionary measures.

Beirut International Airport Under Shellfire

NC1403060789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0550 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] We have just received the following security report: Beirut International Airport is currently coming under artillery bombardment. Four shells landed on the airport a short while ago.

PSP Installs Machineguns in Fishing Boats

NC1203172589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] According to security reports received by our radio, gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] have confiscated seven fishing boats and taken them to the military beach where they installed heavy machineguns in them. PSP sources said that a ship will arrive in Al-Jiyah Port tomorrow to unload its cargo and that the PSP insists on this despite the Council of Ministers decision banning ships' entry into the illegitimate ports.

Army, PSP Clash in Beirut Commercial Areas

NC1003221989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Clashes along the mountain combat lines between Lebanese Army positions and Progressive Socialist Party gunmen have eased. Sporadic clashes involving the use of various types of rockets and machineguns continue along the commercial markets [of Beirut].

'Escalated' to Port Areas

NC1403070989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0550 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] We have just been informed that the eastern areas [of Beirut] are coming under artillery fire from the mountain and West Beirut. According to sources, the situation has escalated along the combat lines extending from the commercial markets to the port area, where violent clashes are taking place. The Beirut sea port was shelled once again.

Sources in West Beirut said that a number of shells fell in the Al-Maramil area near Beirut airport at 0645 this morning. Shells also fell in the Khaldah port area and Dawhat 'Aramun.

E. Beirut, Port Areas Shelled

NC1403075189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The eastern areas [of Beirut] came under heavy shelling from the mountain and West Beirut at 0730 this morning. The shelling was concentrated on Ba'abda, al-Jumhur, al-Yarzi, 'Arayh, Dahr al-Wahsh, (Harat al-Sittah), Bdadun, Humal, Bulaybil, Bsus, and Bsaba. The Juniyah and Beirut sea ports were shelled earlier.

Because the attackers went too far in their attacks against legitimacy harming citizens, properties, and livelihood, our positions returned the fire to silence the attackers.

According to AFP, the shelling against West Beirut [as heard] killed and wounded several persons.

While security sources said that the shelling killed five persons and wounded three. [passage omitted]

In another development, a military source in the 6th brigade denied reports by REUTERS yesterday to the effect that the brigade participated in shelling eastern areas.

Meanwhile, the joint Naval and Air Force Operations Room continues monitoring the Lebanese territorial waters to prevent any ship from docking in illegal ports.

RFL on Fighting in Port Area

NC1303172189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] A state of extreme tension has continued, although the attacks on the combat lines of the Port, Al-Jumayzah, and Al-Yasu'iyah in Beirut have abated. The attacks took place following a sudden escalation at 1615 today when seven shells were fired at Beirut Port in two salvos. The attacks soon spread. Another mortar shell fell in the port area, followed by bursts of heavy-caliber machinegun fire from the Normande, the hotels, and Burj al-Murr areas toward the port, Charles Hilu Boulevard, and residential buildings in Al-Jumayzah and al-Yasu'iyah. The fire was returned with the appropriate weapons to stop the attacks.

[Paris AFP in English at 1705 GMT in a related report says, "About 10 shells slammed into Syrian-controlled Muslim West Beirut for the first time in more than two years, police said. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties."]

W. Beirut Under 'Bombardment'

NC1403114989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] We received a news report a short while ago that the security situation has flared up again. Specifically, the areas of Al-Barbir, Al-Nuwayri, and Corniche al-Mazra'ah [in West Beirut], which are coming under violent artillery bomabrdment. This was preceded some 20 minutes ago by a long-range artillery barrage directed at the Al-Awza'i and Al-Maramil areas. Citizens are, therefore, asked to take precaution and be extremely vigilant.

18 Killed, 60 Wounded

NC1403093589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 14 March]

[Text] Shortly after the announcement of the Al-Yarzah Command [Defense Ministry] at 0715 today to close the schools in the eastern areas, the artillery of the able state directed concentrated bombardment at the residential areas including the UNESCO circle, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Verdun, Al-Awza'i, the airport road, Burj al-Barajinah, and Al-Janah. The bombardment caused a human massacre which left over 18 people dead and 60 others wounded. The wounded were transported to hospitals. The shelling took place at a time when the citizens were heading to work and the students were going to their schools. All roads and junctions—usually scenes of traffic congestion—were also targeted.

The Army Command in Beirut announces that the bombarded areas are residential areas and free of any artillery emplacements or illegal ports. The Army Command will not be dragged into shelling our kinfolk in the eastern areas. But it knows how and when to chop off the criminal hand which attacked our kinfolk in the nationalist areas.

Amal Fires at Beirut Port

NC1303182789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has escalated the security situation. An Amal Movement group, stationed in a building between the Normande and Al-Hajj Dawud areas—that is, in an area under Syrian Army control—has directed artillery and machinegun fire toward the port area since 1630 today. The latest of these attacks took place at about 1900 when two shells and two bursts of machinegun fire exploded in the air. The shelling and sniping attacks on the port area and the old commerical center stopped at 1815 following security committee contacts.

Several artillery shells were fired at the port area at 1630 today. Security sources noted that concentrated fire was returned toward the attacks' sources.

This afternoon, Qul'at al-Hisn in Suq al-Gharb and Kafr Shima came under machinegun fire from Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] positions. PSP military reinforcements were observed near Charles Sa'd School and on the Shatra and 'Abd al-Jalil hills in 'Aytat.

Amal, PSP 'Exacerbate' Crisis

NC1403070189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Having impeded the Arab initiative through the terms imposed by Damascus, there are new attempts to further complicate the situation. The Amal Movement in

Beirut and the members of the Progressive Socialist Party in the mountain have undertaken the task to exacerbate the situation, under direct orders from the Syrians.

At approximately 0550 today, the Beirut sea port came under artillery shelling from the Amal Movement's positions in Normande and Al-Hajj Dawud. According to security sources, five shells fell in and around the port, causing material damage.

The Juniyah port was later shelled from the same positions. Six artillery shells fell in the port from the Amal Movement's positions in Normande, where the Syrian soldiers are heavily deployed. Fire was directed at the shelling positions to silence them.

We have just received the following report from the newsdesk: A short while ago, a military source called on all schools to close their doors today in view of the current security development.

Lebanese Forces, Army on Alert in E. Beirut

NC1403061389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] A state of alert has been declared among the Lebanese Forces and Army personnel in East Beirut areas, particularly in 'Ayn al-Rummanah where fighting broke out between the two sides last night. Contacts were held to resolve the situation.

W. Beirut Syrian Artillery Emplacement Destroyed

NC1403100789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Security sources have stated that the artillery fire directed against artillery emplacements in West Beirut, in response to their attacks against residential areas and the Beirut and Juniyah ports in East Beirut, have scored direct hits. A Syrian artillery emplacement in Al-Awza'i area was destroyed, and a Syrian soldier was injured.

A short while ago, a military source asserted that the shelling was not targeted against residential areas in West Beirut, but that it was directed against artillery emplacements in Al-Awza'i and Al-Maramil. The source said: A third party in the mountain area may have interferred and shelled residential areas in the western sector of the capital to confuse the citizens.

Council of Ministers Protests Syrian 'Pressures'

NC1403104789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] During a session held this morning, the Council of Ministers decided to entrust the Foreign Ministry with the task of sending an urgent memorandum to the Arab Good Offices Committee, pointing out the seriousness of the Syrian practices during incidents in the past 48 hours.

The ministers asserted that Syria pressures our people to renew inter-Lebanese fighting in order to abort Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem and monopolize decisionmaking in the Syrian-controlled Lebanese areas, through the closure of crossings and legitimate ports and utilities, and legalizing illegal ports. The ultimate aim is to encourage smuggling and, disorder, deplete state resources, and distort the image of the Lebanese people by giving the impression that they are unworthy of sovereignty and independence.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers reiterates that it will not tolerate any attempt to create discord among the Lebanese people, impose a blockade in various areas, or famish, divide, or subjugate the Lebanese. The Council will not be dragged into an inter-Lebanese war which would distract attention from the real confrontation which is, in essence, a Lebanese-Syrian one.

The Council emphasized its determination to stand fast against the forces of occupation and hegemony over all Lebanese territories.

Syrians Reportedly Declare Maximum State of Alert

NC1403115389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1141 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] While artillery shelling continues against the various areas in East Beirut, we were informed a short while ago that a rocket shell has fallen in Juniyah.

According to security reports, the Syrian occupation forces have declared a maximum state of alert over the entire Lebanese territories. We will provide you with more details in our 1345 newscast.

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Battle for Jalalabad Continues

LD1303200189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] From all reports received by the BIA military section, it can be concluded that units and contingents of the Afghan Armed Forces, in safeguarding their home trenches, have succeeded in inflicting heavy blows on the enemy's trenches, fortifications, depots, and concentration sites. In some areas the extremists have been forced to retreat and have escaped. The reports add that in the past 24 hours, 276 people from among the armed extremists and Pakistani soldiers, and 215 others, have been injured. The dead includes 11 commanders. Similarly, 14 enemy guns, 17 mortars, 9 radios, 1 large spply convoy, and 39 fortified enemy positions have been destroyed. Afghan units and contingents captured six enemies carrying three radio sets and light and heavy weapons.

It can be inferred from intelligence reports received from behind enemy lines that extreme hatred is increasing at the decision by Pakistani commanders and advisers to bury the dead resulting from their massacre. There are also differences among various groups on what positions their people should take. Some observers say that some of the invaders who tried to escape from the battlefield were killed by Pakistani militia who were in rear positions.

Similarly, prisoners of war and eyewitnesses reported today that Pakistani advisors and officers and a number of extremist commanders decided today that it was impossible to remove the injured from the battlefield and that to do so would cause a decrease in the number of fighters. So the injured are to be secretly killed. This has led some people, who wanted to take their friends to safer places, to dodge Pakistani officers and their (?guerrilla) commanders. In some incidents they were fired on. Therefore, the beaten army has decreased its activity and is instead increasingly fire with long-range guns.

The enemy has fired about 12,000 recoilless gun shells, mortars, and Saqr-20 and Saqr-30 rockets over the past 24 hours on the city of Jalalabad and the surrounding area. As a result, 5 members of the Armed Forces and residents of the city were martyred, and 15 were injured. Eight houses in the city, two automobiles, one radio, three (?shops), and one mosque were either damaged or destroyed.

According to recent reports, units and contingents of the Armed Forces are further fortifying their trenches and are in control of the situation. The invasion of Pakistani soldiers has stirred the national pride of all Afghans regardless of their tribe, nationality, or religion, and the blood of patriotism is boiling in the veins of every Afghan. For this reason, the great wave of hatred and loathing against the U.S.-backed nation-seller Pakistani military has reached every ancient and proud province of our country. The BIA military section reports that members of the PDPA, DYOA, members of social organizations, members of regional and tribal organizations and a large number of patriotic Afghans in all provinces have expressed their readiness to defend Afghanistan's indepence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the dignity of the country against the joint invasion of Pakisan soldiers and U.S.- and Pakistani-backed groups. They have asked to be sent to Nangarhar to abort the invasion of the Pakistani military and the extremists, and have said that they are ready to fight.

Some opposition group commanders have even expressed their readiness to abort the enemy invasion in Nangarhar Province and have sent their representatives to the government authorities. The report adds that the self- sacrificing sons of Laghman Province left for Nangarhar Province to take part in defending Jalalabad. Soon after they arrived in the city of Jalalabad they stood in the front lines of the battle against Pakistani soldiers and extremists backed by Pakistanis. Real Afghans, no matter where they are, cannot tolerate the invasion of their land and will give the Pakistani military and the extremists a crushing response.

Rebels Cut Off Route To Kabul

BK1403024989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Afghan mujahidin have cut off Kabul-Jalalabad highway at (Kaptar Khaneh), some 40 km away from Jalalabad. The highway is the most important supply route to Kabul from Jalalabad. Meanwhile, fighting continues for control of Jalalabad. The mujahidin launched heavy mortar and rocket attacks on an Armed Forces ammunition depot near (Towr Landi) area yesterday, setting fire to it. They also attacked the Kabul regime forces defending Sarowbi, a place between Kabul and Jalalabad, and forced them to vacate some posts. The mujahidin have captured three security posts in Behsud District. Kabul regime Air Force planes carried out indiscriminate bombing around Jalalabad in a bid to force the mujahidin to retreat from their positions. In retaliation, the mujahidin fired 12,000 rounds from artillery and other weapons.

Pakistanis Die in 12 Mar Battle

LD1403093189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—The armed opposition groups and Pakistani soldiers continued firing rockets on Jalalabad city and its military establishments on Sunday, reported our military correspondent from Jalalabad city, center of Nangarhar Province, bordering Pakistan. The report added that the extremists fired on Sunday over three thousand cannon, mortar and tank shells on the residential areas of Jalalabad city. Fortunately the shelling did not cause human losses but brought about a considerable amount of material damages.

On the other hand, on the same day the artillery and airforces of the Republic of Afghanistan continued their attacks on strongholds and centers of Pakistani and extremist elements. The report added that 386 persons attached to the enemy were killed and over 150 others got serious wounds during the operations carried out by the Armed Forces. The personnel of the Armed Forces seized a great amount of arms and munitions which belonged to the extremists as well.

On the basis of the precise reports over 3100 [figure as received] Pakistani soldiers and extremist were taken out of the battle front on Sunday as a result of the attacks launched on the enemy by the Armed Forces. The report added that the Pakistani militias which were at the back front tried to prevent the escape of the Afghan extremists. Thus they fired at the extremists which resulted in killing a number of them. Our military correspondent reported further that the Pakistani advisors did not let the extremists take to Pakistan the bead bodies of those killed during the battle in Jalalabad city, because this action will arouse the anger and indignation of their families.

Based on another report, two helicopters landed a number of foreign advisors as well as munitions near Ghaziabad farm and the same helicopters transferred to Pakistan bodies of some foreign citizens from the spot. The same report added that the Pakistani authorities rejected the demand of the foreign journalists to visit the battle site because Pakistan wants to hide its direct interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The personnel of the Armed Forces timely discovered and defused the explosives which had been placed by the extremists on Sunday in a civil hospital of Jalalabad city. The latest reports say that the combat morale of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is very high and they have inflicted heavy blows upon the armed opposition groups and their patrons.

'Dozens' of Helicopters Land

BK1403112489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 14 (AFP)—Dozens of Afghan military helicopters landed in Jalalabad Tuesday as mujahidin guerrillas intensified rocket and mortar attacks on the battle-ravaged city, resistance sources said here. The sources said it was unclear whether the helicopters, estimated to number more than two dozen, had brought reinforcements or were preparing to evacuate government troops from the strategic garrison city in eastern Afghanistan.

Afghan Air Force jets bombed mujahidin positions shortly before the helicopters—Soviet-made MIL Mi-24s and Mi-25s—began to land at Pushtunishtan Wad, near government bases inside the city, the sources said.

The guerrillas shot down one Afghan jet with a shoulder-fired Stinger missile and one of the helicopters. The fighter fell in an eastern suburb of Jalalabad and the helicopter near farm Hadi [name as received] in the south of the city.

Many resistance commanders on the battle front believe the helicopters could be used to evacuate troops and government employees from the beleaguered city, the sources said. They said the government had evacuated Bari Kowt, an important garrison in eastern Konarha Province, in a similar fashion last year after a prolonged siege.

The mujahidin, who launched a large-scale offensive on Jalalabad early last week, have stepped up pressure in the past two days on the city and its airport, intensifying rocket and mortar attacks, the sources said. They said government troops had suffered setbacks in battles overnight although the Afghan Air Force continued to bomb mujahidin positions, killing seven guerrillas and wounding four.

The mujahidin cut the main road linking Jalalabad to Kabul Monday and forced troops to abandon several posts in Sarowbi District, midway between the garrison city and Kabul, and retreat to the capital, the sources said. The guerrillas also captured four military posts in Behsud just north of Jalalabad and took 30 government soldiers prisoner. Other troops at forward bases have withdrawn to Jalalabad after heavy fighting Monday, the sources said.

The guerrillas also destroyed an ammunition depot in Jalalabad Monday which had been a main source of supply for the Afghan secret service, KHAD, they said. (Diplomats in Kabul said Tuesday that casualties in the fighting for Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third largest city, appear to have run into the thousands, with tens of thousands of civilians fleeing the area.)

Nangarhar Governor Interviewed

LD1303232889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Major General Manokay Mangal, governor and secretary of the Nangarhar Provincial Committee, by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Esteemed Major General Manokay Mangal, governor of Nangarhar, in line with our series of interviews with provincial leaders, this evening we would like to talk to you on the telephone. Could you inform Afghanistan radio listeners and television viewers about the politico-military situation in Nangarhar Province?

[Mangal] Thank you for the pleasure today, Monday, 13 March, of having this opportunity to have a telephone interview with you. Allow me to express thanks for the heroism of the high-flying eagles of the homeland, our airmen and all the Armed Forces personnel stationed in Nangarhar, who have played their worthy role in repelling and rebuffing the thievish enemy attacks on the homeland. I would also like to sincerely thank all of our compatriots, as a whole, whose hearts and spirit is with us these days for reliably repelling and rebuffing the enemy attacks in the (?struggle) for Jalalabad.

In informing our compatriots about the plans and traitorous conspiracies of the extremists and their (?foreign) backers, I would like to say that, as a result of the Armed Forces' heroism and power, they have faced shameful and deadly defeat.

Some 250 Pakistani military and intelligence personnel and about 200 U.S., Arab, and other advisers were commissioned to implement the (?plan). During the past 6 months [words indistinct] supply convoys of Pakistan and the extremists have arrived in Nangarhar Province. In addition to the repeated aggression of the Pakistani ground troops and the Pakistani intelligence service, Pakistani helicopters were shuttling in foreign advisors and extremist leaders to realize their designs in Nangarhar Province. Some 20 Pakistani Army units consisting of 20,000 troops, were stationed at strategic and important border points. The Republic of Afghanistan has already officially protested to Pakistan. These have been broadcast previously in the media.

In organizing the activities of these groups, senior Pakistani military and CID [Criminal Investigation Division] officers such as Generals (Aref) and (Eqbal), who are in charge of intelligence in Kohat, were commissioned to coordinate and maintain the joint military efforts of the Pakistani and extremist (?brigades). Prior to commencing attack, the Pakistani officers sent instructions that all food supply routes to Jalalabad were to be blocked. Thus they tried to force the people through threats of famine and hunger to flee to Pakistan.

They then embarked on an extensive campaign to seize Jalalabad. The fight began after obtaining [word indistinct] from General Aslam Beg, chief of the General Staff, and General Gul Hamid, head of Pakistani intelligence—by thousands of extremists with the support of the regular Pakistani commando units, who were wearing uniforms identical to those of the extremists. On 6 and 7 March, propagandists and dreamers [word indistinct] announced that on 8 March the extremist interim government is first meeting will be held in Jalalabad city. At this moment I have just come back from the airport and I am talking to you now from the old city, where the provincial committee headquarters is located.

Really, to the extent that our enemies' intentions are very dirty and foul, the [word indistinct] of the party and state responsibilities, the question of the commencement of the extremists' attack including the Pakistani commandos, was not surprising and unexpected. We were already prepared and aware. The provincial committee extraordinary plenum was held and all PDPA fighters, in order to defend the honor and dignity of Nangarhar's people, were organized in the units of the Fedayan-e Enqelab [Those Who Sacrificers Themselves for the Revolution] in independent regiments. From that day on the [word indistinct] of each struggler adhered to such slogans as: The homeland or death; We give our heads and not our trenches; Nangarhar is our home and grave.

The enemy began attacking Jalalabad city, first from the direction of Sorkh Dival and then from every direction. In such moments, when the question of the life and death of the homeland and the people was at stake, the units and companies of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar, the PDPA members, social organizations and regular tribal regiments, became the invincible fortress against the shameless aggression of the aliens and the extremist traitors to the homeland. Our people taught them a lesson such as their British teachers, Dr Bryden and his colleagues had previously learned at the foot of these mountains.

The war began from the gun emplacements at [word indistinct]. The enemy rained almost 50,000 missiles on and around our city. They set fire to villagers' houses, whatever they found—the timber or doors of houses. They took in the name of paying for Pakistan's kindness! They spared the homeland no brutality or treachery. This battle, which continued with the active and major role of the Pakistani commandos, was undoubtedly unprecedented. Advanced types of heavy weapons units, communications systems, supply equipment and military ambulances of Pakistan and others, constitutes the character of this war.

I would like to mention here that, despite the fact that the extremist leaders had promised the Pakistani Army and intelligence that all organizations and parties would take part in the attack, a number of commanders, when they saw the open intervention of the Pakistani Army against our homeland, really took a responsible stand and did not take part in this traitorous war. They expressed the opinion that they did not want to destroy the beautiful houses of their homeland. They did not want to transform into ashes the eternally spring-like (?Nangarhar).

The Voice of America was impatiently tearing at its throat to report the victory of their seizing the airport or the old city, which they thought suitable for the headquarters of their interim government.

On this occasion all the noble elders, the courageous men of Khugianay, (Shinwar), Mohmand, and other tribes along with the 'ulema, teachers, writers, and all the local people decided on the destiny of their lives and are heroically defending their homeland. The free tribal Pashtun brothers on that side of the border, by holding tribal jirgahs, demand from the extremists and their Pakistani organizers, that where the beloved shrine of the father of the Pashtuns, Fakhr-e Afghan Khan 'Abdul Ghaffar Khan, is situated, this city of their fathers, should not be insulted. The great soul of the great Pashtun leader should not be angered with such a shameless and traitorous action. However, the enemy account overlooked the rights of the homeland, the human rights of Afghans, and sacrificed these rights as the price of forming a confederation. As a result we became the victors.

In the blessing of our almighty God and at the blessing of the rights of the motherland, with the sympathy and backing of our people, with the attention of our esteemed and beloved leader, we are victorious. More than 2,000 extremists and Pakistani commandos, were eliminated. Dozens of their supply depots and convoys were destroyed, and the processing of cleansing Nangarhar of the enemies' dirt is continuing.

In concluding I would like to say that the people of Nangarhar will courageously defend themselves. We have brought great supplies of food, clothing, and fuel. We not only have dealt a deadly defeat to the sinister plan of the enemies of the homeland and revolution, but have saved our people and the dignity of our people. I should inform all the compatriots that the sons of the homeland are heroically defending it against foreign aggression. The Armed Forces personnel and our courageous Air Force have dealt the enemy shattering blows. Now the Pakistanis do not know how to collect their corpses. They have thus asked elderly men from Peshawar to collect the filthy corpses of the homeland sellers and of the Pakistani military officers and troops and take them to that country.

Thank you very much.

Military Situation in Provinces Reported

Laghman Arms Convoy Destroyed

LD1003160389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The courageous security forces of Laghman Province have recently dealt crushing blows, destroying weapons and ammunition convoys belonging to the armed extremists in [name indistinct] of Laghman Province. This convoy, which was dispatched to the territory of Afghanistan from Pakistan, was destroyed while being transported to Laghman Province.

The BIA military section reported that this convoy consisted of 10 horses and mules loaded with weapons and ammunition and was guarded by 13 armed extremists and two Arab advisers. The convoy came under heavy blows inflicted by the security forces with the cooperation of the people. As a result, 13 armed extremists and 2 Arab advisers were killed. Dozens of heavy and light weapons, 12 sets of [word indistinct] and recoilless guns, and a large amount of ammunition were completely wiped out. During this operation, the security forces seized 6 surface-to-surface missiles, 6 mortar shells and rockets, as well as 20 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition. During this operation, one security man was also wounded.

180 Killed in 3 Provinces

LD1103074689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR—An authoritative source of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, reports that the detachments of the Armed Forces have dealt heavy blows on Pakistani-backed extremist groups in the past 24 hours. During the retaliatory operations carried out in the provinces of Qandahar, Herat and Baghlan by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan over 180 opposition armed extremists were killed and a number injured. About 700 youth have also voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces in the past 24 hours.

2 U.S. 'Advisers' Reported Dead

LD1303231189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] An authorized source of the Armed Forces told the BIA military section that the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar have searched and mopped up Tarin Kowt and Makwan villages in operations that resulted in the deaths of 21 extremists and 2 U.S. advisers; 180 mortar mines, 73 rounds for recoilless guns, 8,000 rounds for light weapons, 40 rocket launchers, 1 rocket missile, 2 mortars, 2 extremist depots, and 2 trucks carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

As a result of shattering blows by Armed Forces' units at the Kalakan region, Kabol Province, six extremists supported by the Pakistani militarist were killed. Another report from Herat Province states that as a result of 10 surface-to-surface missiles fired at residential areas in Gozareh District and security posts in the province, one provincial security officer was wounded. As a result of retaliatory strikes by the Armed Forces at the gathering places in that district, five extremists belonging to the Jamiyat band and four others were wounded, and a large amount of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, during armed clashes between the units and companies of the Armed Forces and the extremists in Ghazni Province, three soldiers were wounded. The situation in other provinces is normal.

According to another report, 385 youths have joined the ranks of the Armed Forces during the last 24 hours in the country's capital and provinces. Also, 84 patriotic youths of Samangan Province today went to the military commissariat of that province and, after registering their names, left for Armed Forces' unit and companies.

15 Killed in Qandahar Clash

LD1403071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—The government Armed Forces carried out on Sunday a series of mopping up operations in south of Qandahar which resulted in crushing of fifteen extremists, reports our military correspondent from Qandahar. The same report adds that a great amount of arms and ammunition as well as several strongholds of the extremists were [words indistinct] rockets and a depot of the munitions of the extremist elements were destroyed during mopping up operations carried out on Sunday in Baghlan Province.

The armed opposition groups backed by Pakistan wanted to commit another crime by planting explosives in the park of Herat congregational mosque. The Armed Forces timely discovered the explosives and defused them. Based on another report two civilians including a child were wounded on Sunday as a result of the firing of heavy rockets on the residential areas of Gazergah District, Herat Province.

The armed clashes increase among various extremist groupings day by day inside and outside the country. Our military correspondents report that recently hundreds of extremists have been killed while armed clashes occurred between Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups in Owbeh District of Herat Province and Nopola [name as received] area of Qarah Bagh District, Kabol Province.

According to other report 634 youths voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces in the capital as well as provinces of the country.

'Ulomi, Karmand Brief Media on Military Situation

LD1303073189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR—An explanatory function was held in the Storey Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on Saturday [12 March].

Hostile measures taken by some foreign countries in relation to the formation of the so-called extremist government in Pakistan and military situation in the country especially situation in the Nangarhar Province were assessed in the function. At the end of the function General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulomi, secretary of the Supreme Council for the defence of the country and Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, responded to the questions raised by the local and foreign journalists who participated in the function.

Supply Convoys Continue Arriving in Kabul

LD1103074389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR—A convoy of 120 trucks with the supplies of food, fuel and other basic commodities arrived in Kabul from Hayratan on Thursday [9 March]. The process of the transfer of food and fuel is continuing and the Armed Forces of the country have maintained the security of Kabul-Hayratan highway.

Pakistani Charge Summoned Over 'Invasion'

LD1303203889 Kabul Domesti Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul this afternoon was summoned to the Foreign Ministry. A strong protest was delivered to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department. The charge was also told that the Pakistani military's—including militia and commando forces—interference in subversive operations in the Afghan border provinces has substantially increased.

For example, 60 militiamen accompanied by 3 Pakistani and some Arab advisers wearing Afghan garments have been sent to the Andar area in Ahmad Khel from (Teri Mangal) to help the extremist group associated with the Hezb-e Eslami. A large amount of arms, including heavy weapons and military supplies, have been sent to Nangarhar Province to intensify attacks on Jalalabad. Similarly, over the past 2 weeks, Pakistani military communication units have been helping Pakistani militia and commando forces and the extremists in subversive operations against Jalalabad.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry lodged a very strong protest over these violations and the invasion which contravenes all internationally accepted norms and the Geneva accords. It asks the Pakistani Government to refrain from repeating these irresponsible acts. Othrwise, the responsiblity for the dangerous consequences of this invasion will rest solely with the Pakistani authorities.

Wakil Protests to UN on Pakistani 'Violations'

LD1103195289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] A message from Afgan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was handed over yesterday to His Excellency Absa le Diallo by Shah Muhammad Dost, Afghanistan's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, during a visit.

The attention of the UN Security Council was drawn to the blatant violations of the Geneva accords provisions by Pakistan. It is noted that after the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan the dispatch of Pakistan's regular armed force to the areas along the border has been further intensified. Pakistan Armed

Forces units including armored, artillery, and commando forces have been stationed in the areas, and new installations have been built. These Pakistani military units take active part in subversive activities with the extremists. Pakistan Armed Forces planes extensively carry so-called Afghan group leaders and foreign advisors. On top of this, 2,500 militia troops wearing Afghan uniforms actively take part in anti-state operations. Pakistan has started to build up new communications lines along the border for the quick supply of arms to extremists.

It is emphasized that Pakistan's armed violations against the Republic of Afghanistan reveal a filthy plan to capture the city of Jalalabad. The UN Security Council is requested to take due measures, taking into account the threat posed to our country's political independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity by the participation of the Pakistani militia troops and soldiers in the subversive activities of Afghan extremists and to stop these increasing threats in keeping with the responsibility it has before world peace and Articles 34, 35, and 39 of its charter.

U.S. 'Expansionist' Aims in Region Decried

LD1203071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 11, BAKHTAR—According to the international news sources, the Government of the United States has asked the Congress, of that country not to reduce the amount of US military aids to Pakistan. To justify the increase of military help to be given to Pakistan, which is more than the defence needs of that country, a high-ranking officer of the ministry of foreign affairs of the U.S. Government told the committee for military affairs of the Congress, that the reduction of military aids to Pakistan will endanger the democratization process in Pakistan.

It will be a stupid action, the officer added, to stop or reduce the amount of aids to the country which follows the strategic plans of United States in the region. Support of Pakistan, the diplomat admitted, is still necessary to put pressure on Afghanistan.

The Bush administration has proposed 240 million dollars as military aids to Pakistan. The political observors believe that the new US Government like its predecessor has been following militaristic policies in the region and wants to change Pakistan as a military base for further realization of its expansionist plans in the region.

5 Nations To Provide Engineers To Clear Mines

BK0903024289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0235 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Wellington, March 9 (AFP)—Five New Zealand Army engineers are due to go to Afghanistan next month as part of a United Nations programme to help train local people in mine clearance techniques, Minister of Defence Bob Tizard, said Thursday.

They will form part of a major U.N. relief and rehabilitation programme to assist in the repatriation of some five million Afghan refugees whose return has been complicated by the several million mines laid during the nine-year war, Mr. Tizard said.

The engineers will be based in Peshawar for four months together with training teams from France, Canada, the United States and Turkey.

A large number of Afghans were killed or maimed every week by mines that had been laid at random, and little local expertise was available to tackle the problem, Mr. Tizard said, adding that the programme was the first to be launched by the United Nations involving the use of military personnel in a humanitarian role.

The cost of maintaining the five-man team in Pakistan would be met by the United Nations with New Zealand paying for their return.

Loya Jirgah Protest on Opposition Government

LD1403072289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Given below is the protest note of the Upper House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan on the formation of the so-called government in the territory of Pakistan:

In the name of Allah, the merciful, the beneficent. A news was recently released by the mass media of Pakistan and the Western countries which rose the anger of the prideful people of Afghanistan and the astonishment of the people of the world. It was the news on the formation of the so-called government backed by Pakistan.

History proves that Afghanistan is a Muslim, free, independent and non-aligned country, a loyal member of the United Nations and a true follower of its charter.

Based on the will of the people of Afghanistan, the historic Loya Jirgah [Grand Assembly] of December 1987 endorsed the Constitution of the country and elected the president of the Republic of Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan is duty-bound according to the prideful traditions of the people of Afghanistan, and on the basis of the provisions of the Constitution of the country, to defend as her fathers and fore-fathers, the national sovereignty, national independence and the territorial integrity of the country, and to keep hoisted the banner of patriotism and love of freedom in the clean sky of Afghanistan. Therefore, how is it possible for a handful of people outside Afghanistan and under the pressure of military intelligence networks of Pakistan and their foreign supporters to form a so-called shura and so-called government which is rejected even by the countrymen outside the country and armed opposition commanders inside.

Addressing the displaced Afghans, the note points that, the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the realistic people of the world are fully aware that the overwhelming majority of the population live within the geographical limits of Afghanistan, enjoying all the civil and social rights. For the sake of preserving the national honour of the country, they have rallied around the state power of the Republic of Afghanistan. They are ready at every moment to defend the honour and the dignity of the homeland and [word indistinct] those who in the name of Afghans outside the country resort to the scattering of the national unity of the beloved Afghanistan, they quote Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi as saying: Do your own work, not the stranger's. Don't settle in the land of [word indistinct].

The military circles of Pakistan as a nurse more beneficient than a mother to the Muslims of Afghanistan, established a protectorate government while paying no heed to the feelings and beliefs of the Muslim people of Pakistan. In a legal defence of their religious beliefs and sanctities, the people of Pakistan stand against the hated book of Salman Rushdie but are suppressed by the rulers of Pakistan and the Afghan opposition forces.

Addressing the Muslim countrymen, the note adds that, a government which has no sign of Afghanhood and Islamhood want to rule Afghanistan. The Afghan pride, nobility, [words indistinct], authority and bravery will allow no Muslim and faithful Afghan to yield humbly to such a government.

Calling on displaced brothers, the note stresses that let us think for a moment. Think all-sidedly. During the last ten years our fields, worship places, buildings, cultural institutions, roads, and finally public properties are [words indistinct] destroyed and damaged. Being drowned in their own blood, our countrymen including women, men, elderly people, the youth, are hopeful for peace. If a number are to infiltrate strangers into our prideful and reverend country and bend to them, they should be aware that their maniacal dream will never come true. The blood of Afghanhood is circulating in veins of every Afghan. They stand against such heinous intentions and take arms.

Therefore, we the senators, the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, call the formation of the so-called government and shura a shameful stain on our holy homeland and severely condemn it. We lodge strong protest with the Government of Pakistan which acts at variance with the Geneva agreements and tramples under-feet the principles of the UN Charter, goodneighbourly relations and international norms and fans up discord and fratricide in our country. We warn them to take in view peace, security and the interests of the people in the region and do not play with fire any more before the situation gets further aggravated due to their such irresponsible deeds.

Addressing the fellow countrymen, the note went on to say that, if a council is formed or a government is created, it should be participated by all the strata and social classes of the people. This is the undeniable right of all, and should be observed.

No force and country can deny freedom, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan or can make aggression on it. As our fathers and forefathers mainly stood for these values and succeeded, we will also succeed. Let us sit together and solve [words indistinct] differences by the force of thought and wisdom, so that our youth, women, children and the elderly will not weather in the fire and blood and not mourn over their dear ones, friends and relatives. Let us put an end to further grievances and heal each other's wounds. And, let us accomplish honestly and faithfully our obligations towards the call of the conscience and towards the innocent and muslims of the beloved Afghanistan who are yearning for peace and tranquility in their ancestral land.

Hikmatyar Thanks Bahrain for Recognition

JN1303141189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Mar (WAKH)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the provisional Islamic government of Afghanistan, has expressed his gratitude for Bahrain's official recognition of the new provisional Islamic government in Afghanistan.

In a statement to WAKH after his meeting with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, he affirmed that Bahrain's recognition of the provisional Islamic government constitutes a great moral and political support for Afghanistan to achieve independence and establish its new Islamic government. He expressed his hope that all Islamic governments would take the initiative to recognize the new Islamic government in Afghanistan.

He said the most important topic which the provisional Islamic government's delegation taking part in the 18th session of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers will concentrate on is calling on all Islamic governments to recognize the mujahidin government.

Fails To Get Iranian Recognition

LD1203073289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 11, BAKHTAR— During his recent visit to Tehran Gulbuddin failed to persuade the Iranian Government to recognise the so-called opposition transitional government, radio BBC said on Thursday. The Iranian authorities regard with contempt the extremists' shura. For representatives of the Shi'ite opposition are not included in it, BBC added. Negotiations of Gulbuddin with the representatives of the eight alliance stationed in Iran for the solutions of their differences have failed as well, BBC concluded.

Uzbek Chief Denounces Government

LD1203201389 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 12, IRNA—Chieftain of Uzbek and Turkmen tribes in Afghanistan termed Afghan provisional government as "illegal and exclusive." Chieftain Wakil Sirat Taleqani [name as received] called on the foreign ministerial meet of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to open in Riyadh Monday, "not to recognize a government chose by the 7-party alliance."

"We do not allow a few groups to run the government at the expense of the majority of Afghan Muslims who spared no sacrifice, to be ignored in their country's government," he told IRNA. Taleqani said he had informed Sibghatullah Mojadeddi of the viewpoints of his tribes in a meeting before formation of the consultation council. "We stressed that the council will have no result without presence of all groups of Muslim Afghans."

The Peshawar based interim government is composed solely of some Pashto speaking tribes who have continued to dominate Afghanistan ever since it emerged as an independent state in the early 18th century on the ruins of the Safavid and Moghul empires.

The second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan are the Persian speaking Hazaras, who control large tracts and their leadership based in Iran, has been by-passed by the 7-Party alliance. Besides, the landlocked country has several other ethnic groups such as the Uzbeks, Turkmens, and Tajiks whose representation is vital for a united Afghanistan, which unfortunately the interim government has unwittingly greatly damaged.

Turning to the Soviet-installed regime, Taleqani said "we reject Najib's rule because it is not popular, and we also reject any other government which does not represent the majority of the people." The present provisional government is not popular, he noted stating those countries which recognized it either do not know Afghan nation well or they have political motives. So far Saudi Arabia and Sudan have recognized the Afghan interim government.

Mujahidin Justice Minister on Government Plans

JN1303163689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Mar 89 pp 1, 21

[By Isma'il al-Fakhrani]

[Text] Judge Najiyullah, minister of justice in the Afghan mujahidin government, announced that his government is seeking to seize the Afghan capital, Kabul, through political pressures to avoid bloodshed among the innocent. In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Najiyullah said there are four options before the mujahidin to open Kabul: to besiege it until it surrenders; to attempt to effect a military coup under the supervision of the mujahidin; to storm it with arms; and the fourth choice is to place political pressures on the Kabul government until its prestige inside Afghanistan and internationally is lost.

He embarked on explaining these options and said: We do not wish a siege upon the civilians as it would harm them. A military coup could cause bloodshed. The third choice—armed storming—will also cause great losses for the civilians and mujahidin. He affirmed that the fourth option is the best.

He mentioned that the mujahidin government seeks the Islamic governments' and the world's recognition and its special seat in the Islamic Conference Organization. It also seeks to obtain membership in the United Nations instead of the communist Afghan government.

He affirmed that this style will soon play a basic role in toppling the status and prestige of the Kabul government, especially since it is going through a stage of complete moral and military collapse. He pointed out that what helps the mujahidin to chose this option is that many generals and soldiers in the Afghan government forces are joining the ranks of the mujahidin daily.

Najiyullah called on the Islamic countries in particular and the world in general to recognize the mujahidin government and realize their responsibilities toward this government, which has reached this level legally. This consists of demanding our rights through the jihad. He praised the Saudi Arabian stand which he described as honorable and pioneering since it was the first government to recognize the mujahidin government. He called on the Islamic world to follow suit in this field.

During the meeting, Najiyullah mentioned that the mujahidin government has decided to hold general elections within 6 months to elect the permanent shura. Two months after the elections the council will form a permanent government. He affirmed that the mujahidin government had finished preparing the provisional constitution which determines the privileges of every official. He pointed out that the most important point of the constitution, which is formed of 83 articles, is to endorse the collective responsibility of the shura leadership council who are the chiefs of the 7 parties headed by the head of state Sibghatullah Mojaddedi on how to run the state's affairs. The opinion of the head of state on this issue is a consultative one. He added that this stage is temporary until the permanent government is formed within less than a year when the role of the party leaders also ends.

Justice Minister Najiyullah, who belongs to the Islamic Party headed by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, affirmed that Hikmatyar is satisfied with the governmental formation and has accepted the position of foreign minister. He traveled to Saudi Arabia and was received in this capacity. He also affirmed that all the government's members are in complete agreement and there are no more problems.

The government's duties after they establish an Islamic system in Afghanistan will be to prepare the right atmosphere for the return of the refugees. He pointed out that the Soviets planted 25 million mines before their departure. It will require great efforts to remove them before the immigrants return, which will take place in an organized manner in stages over approximately 1 year.

He also mentioned that reconstruction is one of the most important problems as well. On this problem, Najiyullah pointed out that the mujahidin government will not accept any conditional loans from any party. They will also not accept, under any circumstances, any usurious loans. He affirmed that western institutions which will contribute toward reconstruction, will be placed under the supervision of the government to avoid the expected dangers.

On Islamic law, the minister of justice in the mujahidin government said: We call on the Islamic world to supply us with experts and consultants on this issue. We have already taken the first steps of preparing these laws.

Commentary Urges PDPA Members To Defend Nation

LD1203073189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 12 Mar 89

[BAKHTAR "commentary"]

[Text] Kabul, March 11, BAKHTAR—The people of Afghanistan are witnessing that their ancestral country is subjected to danger. The slogan "country or shroud" is sung by every member of the Armed Forces and every other defender of Afghanistan. Thus they are bravely defending their historic homeland against any foreign aggression. The people of Afghanistan count on their sons that they would courageously foil every evil plot of the extremists for controlling Jalalabad city, centre of Nangarhar Province.

Our compatriots know that sometime ago the co-called shura "council" of the seven alliance was held in the territory of Pakistan under direct guidance of Pakistan's secret service and efforts of Saudi Arabia's authorities. The composition of the so-called interim government of the seven alliance formed under direct observation of Pakistani secret service was also surprising to eveyone including the members of the shura. The composition of the said government has been rejected and denounced by most members of the shura and most commanders inside the country from the very beginning. Burhanuddin Rabbani, one of the seven leaders, called the government practical and unjust.

The Pakistani authorities urged the leaders of the seven alliance to convene a session of the said government inside the sacred territory of Afghanistan. Jalalabad was the first aim of the Pakistani authorities. The undeniable facts show that Pakistan militias and paratroopers not only have entered the territory of Afghanistan but they are supporting and encouraging the extremists to continue their struggle. They promise the extremists that fresh forces will arrive from Pakistan.

However, the brave Armed Forces of Afghanistan have inflicted heavy blows upon the extremists and their patrons. The reports say that until March 9, 1989 over 1500 of the aggressors were killed by the Afghan forces.

The Pakistani authorities launch such aggressive actions against the Republic of Afghanistan while Pakistan has been obliged to refrain from intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan under the Geneva accords. The Pakistani authorities would soon realize that they may not be able to achieve their [words indistinct] and it will cost them too much.

The people of Afghanistan should realize that the personnel of the Armed Forces and the PDPA members may not let any force to carry out its evil and aggressive intentions in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Compatriots, the motherland demands from each Afghan to fulfil his responsibilities before the country and defend the national honours, territorial integrity and national sovereignty at this historic moment. Members of the PDPA do not forget that death in the battlefield in struggle against foreign aggressors is the most supreme honour.

"Country or shroud."

Mongolia's Batmonh Sends Message to Najibullah

LD1403070489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR—Jambyn Batmonh, secretary general of the Communist Party of Mongolia and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of that country, sent a message addressed to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, when his plane was flying over the Republic of Afghanistan for Tashkent. Good wishes for President Najibullah and for the people of the Republic of Afghanistan is hoped in the message.

Kapisa District To Become Province

LD1103224489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] The press office of the presidency reports to us that in line with paragraph 2, Article 75 and paragraph 6, Article 81 of the Constitution, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah agreed to Council of Ministers Resolution No 493 dated 28 February 1989 on the elevation of Kapisa Major District to a province and Resolution No 494 of the same date on the elevation of Salang subdistrict to a district.

Bangladesh

Indian Embassy Denies Troops Massing on Border

OW1303162289 Beijing XINHUA in English 1559 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Dhaka, March 13 (XINHUA)—India denied today a Bangladesh press report that India has deployed troops along the Indian border with the southeastern hilly districts of Bangladesh. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka said in a press release issued here tonight that "no Indian troops have been deployed on the Indo-Bangladesh border and no unusual build-up of border security force on the border either." [sentence as received]

Bangladesh dailies on Friday reported that nearly 14,000 Indian troops have been amassed along the Indian Tripura State border with Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, the scene of the tribal insurgency which, Bangladesh says, is backed by India. The tribal insurgents, known as "Shanti Bahini" (Peace Army), have been fighting a bush war since 1973 when their demand for autonomy in the hill tracts was rejected by the Bangladesh Government.

Bangladesh accuses India of giving sanctuary to the tribal insurgents and providing arms and fund to them. But India rejects this accusation.

PRC Army Chief Ends 'Goodwill' Visit 13 Mar

BK1303131089 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army General Chi Haotian left Dhaka on Monday after a week-long good-will visit to Bangladesh. During their stay the Chinese military good-will delegation called on the president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the chiefs of staff of the three services. They also visited training institutions and other installations of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Jessore and witnessed a training exercise at Bogra.

Communist Party Derides Ershad's Election Offer

BK0503133389 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on Sunday dismissed as "just eyewash" President Ershad's recently expressed willingness to hold fresh elections with the participation of all political parties.

"We are not opposed to elections. But the past activities of the government did not indicate that elections could be held free and fair under this administration", Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, told UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] when his attention was drawn to the president's recent talks covered by the BBC and the British press.

Refuting President Ershad's claim that his government took appropriate measures for ensuring fair elections, the CPB chief said, "We had never seen fair intention in President Ershad for holding impartial polls."

CPB, which participated in the 1986 parliamentary elections under the present government but boycotted last year's Sangsad [parliament] polls, is a major component of the eight-party alliance.

Asked his comments on the president's views regarding Bangladesh politics expressed during his recent visit to Britain, Manik maintained that Ershad's sayings were aimed at confusing the British people and the donor countries.

India

Air India To Use Soviet Aircraft, Pilots

BK0903062289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] There will be consolidation in Indo-Soviet civil aviation. As a result of a strong need for more aircraft for the passengers, Soviet aircraft will be used in India shortly. Here is a report by our correspondent, Seela Mahajan Seni.

[Begin Seni recording] By March-end two Soviet aircraft—TU-154 and IL-62-M—will be used by Indian Airlines. This will be on [words indistinct] leasing for 1 year, which means the pilots will be the Soviets and the cabin crew will be of Indian Airlines. The TU-154 will be used for the domestic sector. It has three engines and a seating capacity of 164 in economic configuration. The IL-62-M will be used for the international sector. It has four engines and a seating capacity of 162, also in economic configuration. Vayudoot [shuttle service] will be getting Yak-42's. The purchase of these aircraft will be done shortly. This will greatly strengthen the civil aviation in India. [end recording]

Spokesman Reaffirms Stance on Sri Lankan Accord

BK0603162889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, has said the DMK MP [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham Member of Parliament] Mr Gopalaswamy's recent visit to the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka was in violation of the party discipline. Mr Karunanidhi was talking to newsmen in Madras today.

Replying to newsmen's queries on the MP's visit, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Center agrees with Mr Karunanidhi's views that such visits are unnecessary and complicate matters. The spokesman said the visit, however, confirms India's stand and assessment regarding the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

According to Mr Gopalaswamy, the LTTE made it clear that their demand for Eelam is not negotiable and they cannot live in peace with the Sinhalese as well as other Tamil groups. The spokesman said that though India has kept its doors open for negotiations with the LTTE, no meaningful talks can take place unless the LTTE changes its attitude. He reiterated that India will continue its efforts to implement fully the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

Sri Lanka's Northeast Chief Minister Arrives

BK1303145189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today. He gave a brief on the situation in Sri Lanka in general and in the Northeastern Province in particular. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that during the discussion, Mr Perumal spoke of his government's plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Northeastern Province and made certain projections about the scale of Indian assistance that he hoped would be forthcoming.

Later, Mr Perumal held discussions with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant.

CPI Secretary Inaugurates 14th Party Congress

BK0603163489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Communist Party of India, Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao, has expressed satisfaction over the country's progressive foreign policy. Inaugurating the 14th party congress in Calcutta today, Mr Rao said that India has developed close ties of friendship with the Soviet Union and other developing countries. Criticizing the economic policies of the government, he said communal and religious fundamentalist forces are taking advantage of people's discontent to indulge in violent activities.

About 1,200 delegates from different parts of the country and over 60 foreign delegates are attending the conference. It will conclude on Sunday [12 March].

Election Commission on Party Registration

BK0603092489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Election Commission has urged all political parties to amend their constitutions to declare allegiance to the Constitution of India for registration as political parties. In a letter to the parties, the commission has drawn attention to the insertion of a section to the representation of people's act amended in last December. Under it even the existing political parties registered with and recognized by the Election Commission should seek fresh registration.

15 kg of Heroin Seized in Punjab; 2 Arrested

BK1303034089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] About 15 kg of heroin worth 15 crore rupees in the international market has been seized in Punjab. The seizure was made after a joint operation by the police and customs authorities in Ferozepore District. Two persons have been arrested in this connection. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the narcotics was smuggled from across the border.

Iran

Syria Accuses U.S. Envoys of 'Incompatible' Acts

LD1103133989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1014 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Syrian Government has accused two U.S. diplomats of engaging in actions incompatible with their diplomatic duties. [passage omitted] Official and semi-official U.S. circles have spread the rumor that the PFLP was responsible for the explosion in the Pan Am aircraft which was blown up 3 months ago over Scotland killing 270. Ahmad Jibril has strongly denied this accusation. Meanwile, it is said that 'Arafat has promised to provide the Americans with intelligence cooperation and to investigate whether a Palestinian organization was involved in this incident.

Once again, the name of Ahmad Jibril and his organization has been mentioned by U.S. Government officials because following the imam's edict on the execution on the author of "The Satanic Verses," that organization announced that it will kill Salman Rushdie. The U.S. Government has called this announcement a terrorist act. Washington says the death sentence on the book's author and the threat to kill him is a terrorist act. Moreover, it constitutes interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Nevertheless, it regards itself justified in carrying out espionage activities in another country, namely Syria, and interfering in the internal affairs of that country and criticizing Syria for supporting a Palestinian organization. Finally, the United States regards itself as fully justified to take pictures and make maps of that organization's bases, thus paving the way for terrorist acts against that Palestinian group.

In the same connection, the U.S. Government has protested to all the countries of the world who have not been inclined to criticize the imam's verdict, as Britain has done. A U.S. official recently said that his government's aim is to ask other countries to express their views on "The Satanic Verses," calling on them to take practical steps against Iran.

According to observers, the Washington administration, in line with London and a number of Western governments, continues its opposition to Iran and the edict of the imam, and tries to create a tense atmosphere in the world in order to achieve its goals which are to suppress Islamic and revolutionary governments and organizations. It is interesting that in the view of the imperialists and their propaganda machines, interference in other people's domestic affairs, espionage, and efforts to destroy them using methods far removed from diplomatic norms are not inhuman and terrorist actions.

Iraq Violates Cease-Fire in Southern Fronts

LD1403152389 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iraqi troops once again violated the cease-fire in Khorramshahr, Abadan and Shalamcheh, disclosed a military official Tuesday [14 March].

The official said that Iraqi troops opened fire on Iranian positions in Shalamcheh region, southern fronts, at 21:00 hours local time [1730 GMT] Monday, forcing the Iranians to return fire in self defence.

Five Iranian combatants were wounded and Iraqi troops suffered some casualties in the fire exchange which lasted seven hours and ended with the mediation of the U.N. observors, he said.

Although Iraqi troops initiated the clash, they contacted the United Nations Iran-Iraq Monitoring Group (UNIIMOG) eight times appealing for an end to the fire exchange, he said.

The situation in Shalamcheh is now calm and under control of UNIIMOG.

Iraqi forces also opened fire on Khorramshahr and Abadan at 01:30 hours local time Tuesday [2200 GMT, 13 March] for the second time in a week, creating panic among UNIIMOG personnel based there. The last time the two port cities were attacked was on March 6, the military official said.

The ceasefire which went into effect last August 20 in the almost eight year Iraqi war, has been violated time and again by the Ba'thist regime, which seems reluctant to go ahead with the peace talks and the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

Velayati Sends Letter to UN Head on Iraq

LD1003213589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1949 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] United Nations, March 10 (KUNA)—Iran Friday urged the U.N. to adopt immediate measures for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognized boundaries, based on the Algiers' 1975 treaty, in order to have progress in the peace talks.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati warned that as long as Iraqi forces have not withdrawn to the internationally recognized boundaries, as verified by the U.N. based on existing U.N. documents, "meaningful progress in the process of peace talks seems inconceivable and thus the "occupying power" is solely responsible."

Velayati attached to his letter 42 maps identifying the 2,663 square kilometres of Iranian territory which he claimed are still under Iraqi occupation. He claimed that after the establishment of the cease-fire of August 8 of last year, Iraq continued its military operations and occupied another 125 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

Velayati's letter was in response to an Iraqi letter to Perez de Cuellar early last month in which Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said his country's armed forces had liberated nearly 10,000 square kilometres of Iraqi territory from Iran. The Iraqi forces withdrew as soon as the liberation of Iraqi territory was completed and the Iranian war machine was destroyed, 'Aziz said in his letter to which he attached eight maps.

Proposes April Peace Talks

LD1403091789 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iran said Tuesday it was willing to resume peace talks with Iraq in the middle of Ramadan, the third week of April.

"To show our goodwill we propose the third week of April to start the talks again," Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

But he reiterated that negotiations on a formal end to the eight-year Iraqi war could only move forward when Iraq pulled out its troops from Iranian territory. "Until the withdrawal takes place, there will be no progress in the talks," he said in an interview.

"I stress again that at this moment there is nothing more important that the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory."

The talks, the fourth round since the August 20 ceasefire, were agreed with U.N. intermediaries to restart in New York late this month but Velayati said the Iraqis wanted it postponed to the first week of April. "This is another example of sabotage. The Iraqis will use every opportunity to throw obstacles in the way."

The Iraqi forces are occupying more than 2,000 sq kms of Iranian land almost seven months after a ceasefire based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Last week Iran publicly said Iraq would not be allowed to use the vital Arvand River, unless it complied with the resolution's demand to pull back from Iranian territory. The river, known as the Shatt al-'Arab by Iraq, is the only outlet for Iraq's largest port, Basra, to the Persian Gulf.

Wearing a neat striped collarless shirt under a dark blue vest and coat, Velayati sat in the middle of a long table used normally for talks with foreign delegations at the main ministry building. Persian morning newspapers, which he was reading before IRNA reporters came in, were folded in front of him.

Within the past week the Foreign Ministry submitted a formal letter to the U.N. secretary general detailing on a map where exactly the Iraqi forces had taken position inside Iran, Dr Velayati said.

"I have asked the secretary general (Javier Perez de Cuellar) to deal seriously with this issue."

The foreign minister said the map showed areas where U.N. military observers had confirmed the presence of the Iraqi forces in Iran based on the 1975 peace treaty.

The letter was in response to contradictory statements by the Iraqi president and the foreign minister on the status of their forces along the border.

In a press conference Tariq 'Aziz had denied the presence of Iraqi soldiers in Iran while Saddam Husayn in an interview with an Arab newspaper claimed that the presence of its forces in Iranian soil was aimed at defending Iraq.

"This is the same mentality of the regime occupying Palestine," Velayati said, pointing at Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

"The Iraqis want to reduce the pressure of world public opinion which is against them and on the other hand to use this (occupation) as a lever to achieve their illegitimate aims."

On the joint military commanders meeting, Velayati said a report earlier this month that the commanders were due to confront each other was false. Iran had not agreed with the meeting because the Iraqis "without reason and logic" had included a condition that it be held inside Iranian territory.

But the foreign minister added that U.N. officials were trying to work out the time and place of the meeting which was originally agreed between the two countries to be held alternatively in Iranian town of Khorramshahr and the Iraqi port of Basra. "It doesn't matter for us where we meet first, either Basra or Khorramshahr," Velayati said.

He also said Iran was willing to exchange all prisoners of war but only within the framework of Resolution 598 which stipulates that forces should first withdraw to international borders.

Prisoners Released Under Khomeyni's Amnesty

LD1303191989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] In accordance with Imam Khomeyni's amnesty decree, this morning another group of prisoners, members of the minigroups, were released from prisons in Tabriz and Maragheh and returned to the embrace of their families and society.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Releases 644 Prisoners of War

JN1303182589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Iranian National Liberation Army, which is the military wing of Mas'ud Rajavi's Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, has announced in Baghdad that it has released 644 Iranian prisoners of war on the occasion of the Persian new year, Nowruz.

Paper Assails 'Vacillation' Over Afghan Issue

LD1403065589 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—A Tehran daily has come out against Iran's "vacillation" in recognizing the interim government in Afghanistan and suggested that it is not "in the interests of the Islamic Republic."

TEHRAN TIMES thought that perhaps the main reason behind it has been "due to the rift between Iran-based eight-party coalition and the Pakistan-based seven party alliance and their failure to reach an agreement."

Referring to the fact that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are likely to call for the recognition of the Afghan interim government in the current foreign ministerial session of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), the English daily said that "Tehran and Islamabad should not allow other countries which were never involved seriously in the popular Afghan revolution to act as big brothers to the mujahidin."

It reminded that "during the past nine years Iran and Pakistan have been the two most powerful supporters of the mujahidin cause" and that they "provided shelter to over five million Afghan refugees."

"As such unity in views on Afghanistan should also be the order of the day between Tehran and Islamabad."

The daily in its today's editorial further criticized the mujahidin eight-party coalition for leaving the shura (consultative assembly) and called for an "all-out cooperation between the two groups" of Afghan mujahidin.

"The two sides should leave no stone unturned to quickly reach an agreement and understanding and abandon short-sighted courses which will only result in further skirmishes," it said.

ICO Urged To Ignore Interim Afghan Government

LD1403094889 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 14 Mar 89

["Press Review"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Tuesday editorialized on the ongoing foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic countries, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Among major issues of the Islamic community to be raised in the session, it said, the Palestinian issue and Afghanistan deserve great attention. "It is up to the OIC to think of and adopt due measures that could nip in the bud potential factors which may ignite bloody civil war in Afghanistan."

It will not help the Afghan people if the OIC gave formal recognition to the interim government of the Peshawar-based Afghan mujahidin, it said. "There is no point in recognizing an interim government which is not considered a broad-based one by many Afghan mujahidin factions themselves." However, the best that the OIC can do is to lessen the gap between various mujahidin groups all of which fought for liberation of their homeland.

As for the Palestinian issue, the OIC is expected to take steps to stop the sufferings of Palestinians in the occupied territories—the OIC cannot any longer content itself by offering lip-service to the Palestinian people, it added.

Meanwhile, the meeting cannot ignore the latest attack of their enemies on the Islamic sanctities, the Holy Koran and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him]. The blasphemous book of Salman Rushdie, "The Satanic Verses, "which has served the cause of enemies of Islam, deserves a proper reaction by the Islamic community. The editorial urged the Islamic delegates to Riyadh meeting "to fulfill their obligation towards Islam and its prophet by duly confronting the enemies of Islam. They should put aside all their inter-Islamic conflicts now that they are facing an issue detrimental to Islam. They should not be afraid of any consequences in implementing the command of God against his enemies."

Majlis Asks ICO To Put 'Satanic Verses' on Agenda

LD1303174289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] More than 190 Islamic Majlis deputies today submitted a letter to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] calling upon the ICO conference in Riyadh to put the issue of the publication of "The Satanic Verses" on its agenda. The call was made in reference to global arrogance's historic opposition to Islam, and in line with that the publication of "The Satanic Verses," and in reference to the support expressed by the West, particularly Britain, for the hireling author of the book. The letter called on the ICO conference to make some decision in this regard, which would please Muslims throughout the world, particularly those in Islamic countries.

ABRAR Assesses Participation in ICO Session

LD0903085789 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 9 Mar 89

["Press Review"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—The participation of Iran in the forthcoming session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Riyadh is considered by an Iranian daily as a "factor for unity" and a political achievement in the Muslim world.

The session to be held at foreign ministers level next Sunday ought to "condemn, in the first place, the recent plot hatched by the West against Islam," said ABRAR in an editorial today in a reference to the publication of "The Satanic Verses".

"This is the common point of all participants in the session," the daily said and added that the introduction of other topics and a consequent emergence of differences will not only derail the conference but also bring a victorious smile on the lips of the enemies of Islam who are now worried to see the Islamic countries gathered together.

ABRAR believed that "Iran's participation in the session with the aim to condemn the Western plot will be a political victory and more important than that the victory of Islam over the world of profanity."

The daily expressed doubt that the Islamic countries would hesitate to condemn those who insult Islamic sanctities.

The session has extended a chance to the participant countries to perhaps decide and judge on their common enemy for the first time in their mutual relations, it said. "It can help, at this point, to promote unity among the Muslim countries and bring closer the ideas of their rulers."

Islamic countries may not have a common stance on political, economic and social aspects, but they all have a unified ideological stance which is the worthiest one and fundamental to all their concepts, the Persian daily noted.

If Islamic countries with their silence let the enemies dare to harm Islam under the pretext of defending freedom of expression and thought, they would have in fact endorsed Muslim countries' languidness and laziness, a thing which is against the will of Muslims, ABRAR concluded.

Taskhiri Heads Delegation to ICO Meeting

LD1203195889 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Iran's delegation left for Riyadh Sunday to participate in the foreign ministerial session of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The delegation is headed by deputy chief of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri.

Further Reportage, Reaction to Rushdie's Book

Khomeyni Thanks Muslims

LD1303165789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, Imam Khomeyni's bureau issued a statement on behalf of the imam of the ummah thanking all Muslims in various parts of the world who, in connection with the historic fatwa [edict] of the imam of the ummah on executing the mercenary and hireling author of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" and also in the wake of his eminence's highly significant and comprehensive message to the the clergy and seminaries, have expressed support or announced their readiness to march and demonstrate or send cables and letters and have expressed their readiness to carry out this divine duty.

The statement says: The historic fatwa of his eminence the imam, may his lofty shadow extend, on executing the mercenary and hireling author of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses," as well as his eminence's highly significant and comprehensive message to the clergy and seminaries, created a huge wave of support with marches and demonstrations all over the world, particularly in Islamic countries and the cities of our country. Moreover, a flood of cables and letters, petitions of support, and declarations of support to carry out the orders of his eminence poured into this bureau, most of which had been sent by the learned 'ulema, the honorable Friday imams and congregational prayers leaders, Islamic assocations, Islamic foundations and groups, and religious personalities from all over the world. The esteemed clerics of various cities in particular arranged glorious marches, all of which were reported to his eminence the imam. His eminence graciously instructed the bureau to convey his gratitude and appreciation to everyone through this statement and to sincerely thank everyone for so much pure emotion and religious fervor which came from hearts full of faith and sincerety. We apologize for not being able to answer each and every one of them separately.

We beseech Almighty God to grant success to everyone in performing their divine duties. May He cut off the hands of the enemies and conspirators from Islamic countries. It is hoped that religious leaders, the learned 'ulema, Islamic societies, the media, and all those involved in the defense of Islamic sanctities will remind Muslims of the danger of the conspiracies of Islam's enemies, who rise with a new tactic everyday, and that they will maintain their readiness for an all-embracing struggle, foiling conspiracies until the final victory of Islam over global blasphemy is realized.

Judges Support Edict

LD1303173689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Forty State Supreme Court judges issued a statement in support of the religious decree of the imam of the ummah on the death sentence for Salman Rushdie, demanding his speedy punishment. In their statement the State Supreme Court judges asked that members of the profession throughout the world express their opinion, and thereby block the Zionist propaganda conspiracy, which states that the punishment of corrupt, apostate, troublemakers like Salman Rushdie and his deputies and supporters limits the freedom of expression.

ETTELA'AT 25 Feb Editorial

NC0603205589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Feb 89 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "Self-Reliance"]

[Text] The West's hasty reaction to the decree by his holiness the imam on the author and publisher of "The Satanic Verses" is noteworthy and should be studied. The West's official haste, which was seen in the position by the EEC and the European Parliament, shows that the West's culture is facing a new phenomenon.

Until now the rule was that revolutions and viewpoints were transformed according to world systems, and that after several years or decades those revolutions and views changed their color. A good example of this is Gorbachev's "perestroyka." "Perestroyka" was actually the baptism of Marxism in the basin of Western civilization and culture. By West we mean liberalism, because we all know that both liberalism and Marxism come from the West. Now Western liberalism, with its strong digestive system and its domineering power, has built an iron bastion around one individual. It has placed this individual under its protection. But this person feels insecure and his life is in danger. This is a very significant phenomenon. It is a phenomenon that can be described as the leaking of a dam. By calculating the economic, social, and other situations—factors that are considered significant in their analyses—the United States and Europe think that the degree of our resistance is limited. In other words, when they see that our bread, meat, and other basic necessities depend on them, they think that the extent of our resistance must be limited.

We should seize this opportunity to rely on ourselves. It is only with self-reliance that we can resist the calamitous flood of the West. In the Indian uprising, the people resisted Britain by economizing and by boycotting British goods. The question now is: How can we sit at the same table with the West and yet stand up to them?

Unfortunately, this dependence can be seen in industry and in culture as well. By culture, I mean the scientific and technical dependence of our universities, and the need for the unquestionable domination of compilation over interpretation. We are seeking a lofty spirit and excellent ideals. However, the delays and stagnation that we are experiencing are the result of this very dichotomy. On the one hand, we want our life to be like that of an ordinary and comfortable person in the West. But on the other hand, we want our spirit to have another meaning.

Now that a cultural crusade has started and the West's confusion signals an opening, it would be a pity if we did not prepare ourselves and if we did not achieve our ideal because of our weakness.

Press on Boycott of UK

LD1303145589 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—A major newspaper has called for an economic boycott of Britain while another has launched a new attack against West Germany saying Tehran should cut off ties with Bonn.

In the continuing anger over the Salman Rushdie affair, ETTELA'AT Monday [13 March] said in an editorial that the Islamic Republic should gradually end all economic ties with Britain. "Why should economic ties with Britain continue?" it asked. "What meaning is there in sending profits to those with whom we have cut our ties...?"

ETTELA'AT the country's second largest newspaper, said what Iran needed from Britain, technologically and economically, was not so necessary that would make Iran "accept any sort of humiliation."

"We can exploit international competition for the benefit of the Iranian people," it added.

The afternoon daily's call followed an editorial in the morning English-language TEHRAN TIMES which said "it will all be fitting for the Islamic Republic of Iran to sever its economic ties with Britain."

On Sunday Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami said Iran should boycott British goods.

Iran ended all diplomatic ties with Britain last Tuesday in accordance with a Majlis decision which did not include an economic boycott against Britain. But TEHRAN TIMES said a Majlis move along this line "cannot altogether be ruled out."

The National Iranian Oil Company, the Commerce Ministry, and several Iranian banks have branch offices in London. Trade between the two countries amounted to dlrs 528 million, with the balance largely in Britain's favor.

The daily KEYHAN meanwhile continued its criticism of West Germany's attitude in the row over "The Satanic Verses" and demanded that diplomatic relations with Bonn be cut.

As long as West Germany and other members of the 12-nation European Community who have withdrawn their envoys from Tehran, do not change their stand "the only logical solution is for... Iran to cut ties with West Germany."

"Therefore we must only put our trust into the domestic hard working miracle makers," KEYHAN said in a commentary.

UK Media Reaction to 'Crisis'

LD1003125989 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 10 Mar 89

["British Media Cool Down Satanic Crisis With Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, March 10, IRNA—The Home Office announcement of Iranian Embassy staff deportations has been played down by the British press Friday following the lead by BBC Television, which totally ignored the news in all of its main bulletins Thursday.

Normally such a move would receive full headline treatment as happened with similar expulsions in 1980, but the present case is seen reflecting the government's anxiety in handling the crisis that has domestic as well as international repercussions.

The crisis, stemming from the publication of "The Satanic Verses," started primarily among Britain's 1.5 million Muslims when first editions of the book were released last September.

It developed into an international scandal with protests around the world leading to the deaths of more than 20 demonstrators, a fatwah [edict] being pronounced by Imam Khomeyni on the life of the author for his blasphemy and to Iran's severance of ties with Britain.

The danger for the British Government is that the conflict not only threatens its standing in Muslim countries but also the radicalization of its own Muslim population, who recognize the legitimacy of the imam's decree.

Hasty and incomplete overtures both to Iran and the British Muslim community have failed to calm the situation, where there is now suggestions of internal government scandal brewing over the handling of the issue.

These are likely to include not only the State Director of Public Prosecutions Alan Green for not acting to ban the book but possibly up to the prime minister herself, who reportedly had advised that there was "no grounds" for action.

Current proposals for private prosecutions hold little weight with British Muslims, but rather are seen as attempts to keep incriminations away from the government.

RESALAT Calls For Unity

NC0903085989 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Leading Light"]

[Excerpts] At one of the most sensitive junctures of the Islamic revolution, when the decree on executing the author of "The Satanic Verses" shed light on the most spectacular movement and revolutionary solidarity in the world of Islam and when the whole capitalist world has officially taken a posiiton before the Islamic world and is showing its claws and teeth, the imam's warning to the clergymen has put new spirit in their hearts and new light in their eyes. Once again he called on Iran's Muslims to show unity on the extremely dangerous path of struggle with the arch enemy of Islam, the Koran, and the prophet. [passage omitted]

This message emphasizes a solution to problems and an element to neutralize plots and threats: the need for unity among revolutionary clergymen and theologians in the seminaries and for unifying the two factions of revolutionary clergymen concerning American-style Islam. [passage omitted]

This is not the first time that the imam has called on the two factions to unite and cooperate. Unfortunately, however sufficient steps have not yet been taken to achieve unity. Definitely, any delay in this has and will continue to inflict political, economic, cultural, and military blows. Should one not ask what the outcome of the differences between the two factions will be? Will the two factions not gradually lose their credibility so far as public opinion is concerned? And will their loss of credibility not bring up the issue of a third power which will, in the shadow of the two factions' conflicts, resort to calculated propaganda and attract public opinion?

Is this third force not formed of those who disseminate that same American-style Islam which is considered the worst plague in the world of Islam?

With this clear and explicit message, has the time not come for the two factions to express their support for the imam's message in deeds and, moreover, to give their consent to this message and to take basic steps toward unity, fraternity, and cooperation?

With the great dangers threatening the revolution from every side, should we not ask the leaders of the two factions whether after the imam's explicit letter dated 7 November 1988 which both factions have endorsed and which called on them to unify and cooperate, they have taken any useful steps apart from delivering speeches and writing articles?

There is no doubt that if the heads of the two factions were to sit beside each other, hold regular meetings, and officially and overtly open a new chapter of friendship, fraternity, cooperation, and understanding, individuals who intend to interfere and to create controversy would not have the opportunity to cause mischief. Also, extremist elements, down to the last one, would be controlled. Under such conditions, clearly favorable grounds will be created for serving the people and solving their problems and for scientific and scholarly deliberations in various fields on achieving favorable solutions.

However, one can foresee that enemies wearing a mask of friendship and friends who are ignorant and not alert will create, as before, many obstacles to this. They will try in every way to portray the unity and coperation between the two factions as contrary to the interests of their own faction and to the other's benefit. Of course, nothing more than this is expected from them. But how can one accept those dear and respectable individuals, with a long record in Islam, the struggle, and the revolution, and those with a good name in the various fields serving the people and government will prefer the assessment by a few sentimental and inexperienced youth or by an infamous political group to that of the imam, their leader, and will refrain from taking any practical step toward unity?

Having heard the imam's message, the Iranian nation is impatiently waiting to see what the two factions' practical steps in fulfilling his decree will be so that they can reap the decree's fruits.

Now the Iranian nation wants to see the true meaning of allegiance to the imam in the form of unity and cooperation between the two revolutionary factions, so that it can make this the motto for its acts. It is only in this way that plots can be thwarted and the strength of the system and the Islamic revolution can be consolidated, God willing.

Pakistan To Represent Country's Interests in UK

LD1303220289 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Pakistani Government has undertaken to protect Iran's interests in Britain. According to the French news agency, reliable sources in Islamabad have said that following the severance of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain, Pakistan will undertake to protect Iran's interests in Britain.

Editorial on Soviet Middle East Peace Efforts
WA1403132989 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Feb 89 p 16

[Editorial by 'A. Marvi: "Moscow's Efforts for Peace and Influence in the Middle East"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has begun his Middle East trip at a time when after almost a decade the Arab Middle East and the Persian Gulf region are witnessing important and decisive developments. This trip, aimed at strengthening Moscow's influence in the Middle East, particularly after the ceasefire in the long Iran-Iraq war and the obvious appearance of conciliatory gestures by PLO leaders and the majority of Arab governments regarding the Palestinian problem, is of special importance. Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, as well as Palestinian and Israeli officials, with whom the Soviet foreign minister will be consulting on this trip, are considered to be the key figures and governments of a region where the success of any peace initiative and de-escalation of tension is a function of various complicated factors. Noting the political basis of Mr Shevardnadze's trip (and Washington's obvious lack of interest to participate in the Arab-Israeli dialogue and peace process and the intensification of West European diplomatic efforts to bring closer together the views of the interested parties regarding the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict) shows that Moscow is willing to spread its influence within the framework of its general policies, based on the elimination of tensions in its relations with the West and the Third World. Moscow is also willing to initiate an important effort aimed at a general resolution of Middle East problems using the tools of the UN, bilateral efforts, and by taking advantage of present opportunities.

Due to its specific foreign policy priorities at the present time, the new U.S. Administration has concentrated its diplomatic efforts on shoring up the alliance with NATO-member countries, strengthening primary allies especially in South East Asia and Latin America, and in general reorganizing its State Department. Therefore, it seeks to avoid any involvement in the complicated and difficult problems of the Middle East region, such as the Lebanese conflict, general Arab-Israeli quarrels, and Persian Gulf developments. This background—in view of the spreading atmosphere of detente in the Middle East—provides an opportune time for testing Moscow's new diplomatic initiatives in the region—a manifestation of which is Shevardnadze's recent trips to important capitals in the region. In spite of this, the Soviet foreign minister does not face simple problems during the course of his trip:

General Soviet policy in the Arab world and particularly in the region where Arab-Israeli conflict is the main focus of political efforts, has been and is based on encouraging a traditional solidarity among Arabs. Moscow has been supporting and encouraging Arab reconciliation regarding the Palestinian issue. Such reconciliation will open the door for Moscow to interfere, as a country wielding influence, in any international conference for peace in the Middle East. It has been the Soviet policy during the past years—with some ups and downs—to create an overall and comprehensive unity of political views among Arabs regarding future relations with Israel. Of course, at present—during the era of Gorbachev's leadership—a new element has been added to this traditional policy; that is, the expansion of relations and contacts with all parties concerned with this problem, while at the same time de-emphasizing traditional bilateral pacts within the framework of cooperation and friendship treaties which were common during the 1970's. This new school of thought in Soviet foreign policy is the result of Moscow's total policy failure during the first half of the 1980's in the Arab world. The deepening enmity between Iraq and Syria during these years—due to the continuation of Iran-Iraq war—showed how difficult it is for Moscow to influence its two principle allies, Baghdad and Damascus, in the Arab world while they are on the no-return path of enmity. Now that the Iran-Iraq war has come to a halt, Moscow is trying to get closer to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, PLO leaders, Saudi Arabia, and Iran while maintaining its ties with Syria and Iraq. This could mean the expansion of relations with key countries and officials in the region in order to create the very consensus needed for a comprehensive solution of the Middle East conflict.

It seems that the George Bush administration will play the role of a very cautious observer until signs indicate that Moscow's policies in the region appear to be productive. Then, it would take the role of an alert observer, interfere, and take advantage of its long-standing influence, which is a result of years of playing the role of a broker in the region and has experienced the difficulties of achieving peace initiatives.

Also, within the framework of two credible friendship treaties and agreements for political and military cooperation with Damascus and Baghdad, Moscow is linked with Syria and Iraq. In view of the animosity between Syria and Iraq, the Soviet Union will concentrate its efforts on easing tensions between these two countries. Although the signing of bilateral and multilateral political-military, tactical, and strategic pacts (such as the one signed between Baghdad, Cairo, Amman, and Sanaa) receive the official blessing of the Soviet Union, Syria's exclusion from this treaty increases the numerous problems that Mr Shevardnadze faces. On the other hand, although Moscow is attempting to expand its trade and economic ties—particularly with Iran and Egypt—all countries being visited by Mr Shevardnadze expect a prompt reaction regarding their relations in response to their needs and economic interests. The economies of the countries being visited by Mr Shevardnadze are all facing major difficulties and deficiencies which the stagnant economy and limited commercial power of the Soviet Union cannot solve effectively. In other words, a lack of economic and commercial strength to implement comprehensive political agreements is the major shortcoming in Moscow's Middle East policy. Even more obvious, as a result of regional intensification of peace time competition, the Soviet Union's economic deficiencies, and the formation of regional Arab blocks—which guarantee political, economic, and military interests of certain groups of Arab governments—the goal of the Soviet foreign minister to help shape an overall Arab consensus regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict seems to be out of reach. The benefits of Mr Shevardnadze's recent trip, surely, will not be so important or even so serious as it was thought to be for Soviet interests or the region.

Delegation Leaves for Budapest IPU Session

LD1103082189 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—An Iranian Majlis delegation left Tehran for Budapest, Hungary, this morning to attend the 81st Interparliamentary Union (IPU) session to be held during March 13-18.

The 6-member delegation is headed by Ahmad 'Azizi who is a member of the Majlis Culture and Higher Education Committee. He has formerly been deputy foreign minister and head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee.

Other members are former U.N. Ambassador Dr Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani, Dr Mohammad Karim Shahrzad, Dr Hoseyn Forutan, Dr Najaf-Qoli Habibi and Ebrahim Asgharzadeh.

Protecting children's rights and elimination of colonialism as well as other political, economic and social subjects will be discussed in the session.

Khamene'i Gives Speech on 'Cultural Crusade'

LD1203130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] IRNA reports that President Khamene'i, who is in Saveh to meet the people and to visit the Iranian foundry industries and facilities in the industrial town of Kaveh, attended a gathering of people in Saveh in the town's congregational mosque this morning.

Addressing the people, he said: What can preserve Muslims in a nation is the spirit of crusade for the Lord and struggle on the path of God. Struggle on the path of God is not always fighting a war and being at the fronts. Before the revolution the crusade of some people meant writing, speaking, and going to prison.

Noting the various plots of the enemies of Islam, the president said that cultural crusade is another form. He stated: Since the start of the revolution, our nation has proved it is prepared to make sacrifices at all levels, and the number of our martyrs indicates the readiness of our people to sacrifice their lives for the revolution.

Describing the goals of the Islamic government and the ways of using the natural resources for the benefit of the people, the president (?stressed) the presence of justice and an end to injustices and harshness in Islamic society. Mr Khaneme'i added: All the West's plots are aimed at stopping Islam and the revolution from becoming a world model. When we completely reconstruct our country the oppressed nations will turn to Islam, which is why they fear us. So the oppressive powers of the world have cooperated to block the Islamic Republic's path. The current uproar and adverse propaganda against Islam, the imam, and officials going on throughout the world and through mercenary radios indicates the (?fear) of the superpowers.

Mr Khamene'i stressed: Crusade means the removal of such obstacles, and the young people who went to the fronts at the start of the war and [word indinstinct] sacrificed their lives and embarked on this path for this particular reason. Now that we are in the reconstruction stage, the president added, the efforts of the reconstruction period are no less important than those of the period of war because the enemies of the revolution fear our reconstruction more than our presence in the war.

He stressed: Our nation will never surrender to the pressures that international oppression wants to impose on us. He added: We are strongly and resolutely standing up to the threats of the world powers, and this is the clear policy of the imam of ummah.

In conculsion, noting that the future is very clear for us, Mr Khamene'i said: The reason for our success to date has been our nation's effort, and without this and without taking risks we would not have been able to end the war with pride.

Further on President's Remarks

LD1203232789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The details of President Khamene'i's remarks to a gathering of the people of Saveh this evening and his inspection of Iran's foundry industries is the subject of the hour's first news report:

In the course of his remarks at a splendid gathering of various strata of the people of Saveh this evening, the president said: Ten years after the glorious Islamic revolution, the Iranian nation is now in a new phase of wide-ranging reconstruction. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the fact that our enemies' conspiracies cannot halt the Iranian nation's resolve to undertake reconstruction. He said: We are at a very sensitive juncture in history. Only the presence of the people of all stages, obedience to the commands of the imam of the ummah, and reliance on domestic talents will be able to bring us success.

The president added: Many countries in the world wish to have friendly and close ties with us. We welcome such ties, so long as they do not undermine our independence and revolutionary nature. In keeping with that fact, we will use the assistance of neighboring and friendly countries in the country's reconstruction.

Referring to the fact that 10 years of holy defense of the Islamic revolution have prevented the reconstruction of the country, Mr Khamene'i said: Our people attained some of the revolution's aims during that period. However, we must strive to achieve all the revolution's aims one after the other. The president added: During the period of wide-ranging reconstruction, our nation must move towards divine rule, and it must do away with cultural, political, and economic problems. Toward that end, the people's unity of expression is one of the best factors. Mr Khamene'i added: Today, the Islamic revolution has given us a new identity and charcter in the world. That is due to the people's resistance, patience, and steadfastness in traveling the course of the revolution.

Our president then visited the industrial town of Kaveh and Iran's foundry industries accompanied by Heavy Industries Minister Nabavi. During the visit, the director of Iran's foundry industries delivered a report about that company's production activities.

Mr Khamene'i left Saveh for Tehran this evening.

IRNA Cites 'Administrative Violations'

LD1303180989 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Reports on administrative violations and embezzlements were compiled by the national inspectorate organisation and sent to related authorities, First Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Taqi Mohassel Hamedani told the daily "RESALAT".

The daily today quoted Hamedani as saying that incoming complaints total 86,703 of which 8,786 were forwarded to the authorities. 21,248 others were filed, it added while the remaining complaints have been classified in 4,234 reports and are ready for despatch.

He referred to the administrative structure and said indifference and carelessness towards laws and their proper enforcement is among the banes of the country's system. "The issue is becoming a nuisance for the three branches of the government," he added.

Although ministries and concerned institutes have not left the organisation's reports unanswered, but these have failed to bear desirable results, said the deputy.

According to Article 174 of the Islamic Republic Constitution the organisation should supervise the correct implementation of laws at administrative bodies.

The reports are prepared with the help of experienced judges and experts, and are sent to administrative authorities if they concern infractions, and to judicial bodies if they are retributive, said Hoj. Hamedani.

Cabinet Discusses Reconstruction Issues

LD0803135589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, after discussing the most important national issues and international affairs, today's cabinet meeting dealt with reconstruction of war-torn areas. The cabinet decided to organize meetings in war-torn areas and provinces in order to analyze the needs and problems of each area in a concerted manner.

It was also decided that a delegation should be sent to Dezful in order to meet the resilient people of that town and become familiar with their problems.

Majlis Member Interviewed on Budget Bill

NC0903103389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Interview with Engineer Alviri, chairman of the Majlis Budget and Planning Committee, by correspondent Forughi; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Forughi] After the Majlis debates began on the 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990] budget bill, we arranged an interview with Engineer Alviri, chairman of the Majlis Budget and Planning Committee. We asked for his comments on the budget and his general assessment of the budget for the coming year.

[Alviri] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Every budget should take into consideration the following points: first, the budget income; second, current expenses; third, projected expenses for development; fourth, the state companies' budgets; and fifth, the issue of the country's (?foreign currency) budget. I will point out the special characteristics of each of these for the coming year.

As for budget income, the strategy in the Budget and Planning Committee activities has been to include income in the budget that can be relied upon and that will not lead to inflation or will have little impact on inflation. We hope that unlike the past years, the income as projected in the budget bill is a firm amount.

Regarding the current budget, as our efforts have been aimed toward having a lower budget deficit, we have therefore made the current budget as tight and limited as possible. Efforts have also been aimed at enabling the government to offer better services to lower-income people. One of the issues that I can mention is the steps taken for workers' insurance next year. The insurance rates, part of which were allocated to current expenses for health, are to be used completely for the workers' insurance. Naturally, this toiling class will see an improvement in health services for them and their families.

As for development expenses, we have mainly concentrated on investment in the country's infrastructure. As examples I can cite water reserves, dam construction, electrification, power distribution, installation of generators that will enable us to produce 1000 megawatts of electricity per year, installation of communications networks, and road construction. We should invest in these areas because of the role that they play in the country's development. Fortunately, some of these activities only need limited (?foreign exchange).

In producing construction material, making the Ahvaz steel (?plan) operational and elevating the output of the Esfahan steel mill, the [words indistinct] of agreement and the allocation of foreign exchange for constructing a number of cement plants in the country are all development projects which, God willing, will be implemented next year. As far as producing construction material is concerned, we have allocated $250 million in foreign exchange because our need for construction materials is of prime importance .

Another noteworthy development plan for next year is the construction of 3000 hospital beds in the deprived areas. In other words, in the 31 cities with [word indistinct] hospital beds, about 3000 beds will be installed.

[Forughi] Mr Alviri, the budget bill refers to reducing current expenses. Does this mean fewer civil servants? Another point is the increase in the prices for some goods. Please explain these.

[Alviri] To answer your first question, I should say that the budget bill's note No 53 deals with steps for eliminating unnecessary organizations and merge some posts in various ministries and government organizations. Economies in transportation and in government agencies' various expenses (?are also foreseen). On the basis of the coming economy measures, naturally in some ministries that need more cadres—like the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education with their constant growth—we will try to transfer people from organizations where they are not needed to those where they are. If organizations are able to economize in this manner by introducing suitable policies, then 40 percent of the amount they save will be used for their employees' welfare.

As far as increases in the price of some goods are concerned, I should say that we had the option of choosing between a loan from the Central Bank or raising prices. In view of the (?impact) that borrowing from the Central Bank has on inflation, we preferred the second option. For example, we added 5 rials to the price of sugar, 1 rial to state-sold chicken, and (?10) rials to state-sold eggs. In return, we will implement several important development projects such as the project to increase the production of [word indistinct] (?wheat) and cotton and the fight against parasitical diseases, and so on. When these projects are implemented finally, we will actually see a drop in inflation that stems from increased production, and the (?impacts) stemming from the price increase will be neutralized. Therefore, in the long term, this step will be an anti-inflationary step.

[Forughi] Thank you very much.

Report on Majlis Deputies' 25 Feb Speeches

NC0603121489 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
23 Feb 89 pp 5, 10

[Report on the pre-agenda speeches during the 22 February Majlis session]

[Excerpts] The first pre-agenda speaker was Astara deputy, Mr Farzpur, who stated the following at the beginning of his speech: Today we are at one of the most sensitive junctures in our country's history where East and West occasionally join hands in order to weaken us, hatch plots, and create confusion. Apparently, however, we have not thought of a basic solution to thwart these plots. The so-called civilized world makes plans for continuing its life and advancing its political and economic ideals. It trains cadres of experts, creates legal and political organizations and institutions, and puts out extensive propaganda. This is why they are successful and achieve their ideals. We too have strived for our own grandeur and the grandeur of Muslims, and for the expansion of the Islamic revolution. We have sought ways that can save us from dependence and help us to achieve self-sufficiency. We have learned many things, but in practice it seems that we have not achieved a great deal.

The speaker then added: We have now reached a stage when the continuation of this situation has become intolerable. The nation is waiting for a move that will pull it out of this situation and help it to achieve the ideals of its revolution for which it shed its blood. I believe that fundamental revisions should be made in the system of government. Fundamental changes should be made in the country's management system. The current shortsightedness should be replaced with openness and farsightedness. Principled proposals and encouragements on issues of the state should not be rejected without deliberation and argument. Legal norms should not be replaced with personal tastes. So long as all these are not achieved, as long as the security of the people is a toy in the hands of irresponsible approaches, so long as repetitive, tiring, and sometimes wearisome slogans are not replaced with independence of thought and deliberations, as long as all the problems and shortcomings are blamed on world arrogance, as long as hypocrisy continues in the country's administrative and political systems, so long as the Expediency Discernment Council does not assign its work to its representatives, and so long as the people's freedom is not taken into consideration, then any effort, proposal, or encouragement to free the country from the current situation will not yield any results.

Referring to the people's problems, he said: The people are definitely suffering from unemployment, high prices, inflation, and shortages of staple goods. This can be easily seen in encounters with the people and in the pre-agenda speeches by the people's deputies. All of them speak of the economy, but in my opinion, our problem today is not one of economy. The economy stems from policy. [passage omitted] Our problem is not an economic problem, but one that reflects the fact that we have distanced ourselves from the Constitution. It is a problem of diversion when it comes to decision-making. It is a problem of interference in each other's affairs. It is a problem of administrative organizations and institutions. It is a problem of the existence of many decision-making centers, weak management, and self-censorship, and the absence of a comprehensive economic policy.

In another part of his speech, Mr Farzpur referred to the relations with the world and said: When we reach the conclusion that we should have contacts with the world, is it not better to first extend a hand of friendship and affection to those people and groups that believe in our system, our revolution, and our leadership? I believe that national unity will ensure the Islamic Republic's system, and the continuation and extension of the Islamic revolution in the world cannot be achieved except through the unity of the Iranian nation, a nation that supports the Islamic revolution of Iran.

He then referred to the presidential elections and said: In view of the extreme significance that the presidential elections have in the political life of our country, one of the best ways to reach national understanding and unity is to hold healthy and free presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The Astara deputy also referred to the law on the freedom of political parties and pointed out: The formation of parties and political groups within the framework of legal norms and on the basis of Article 26 of the Constitution will solve many problems. The people have the right to form parties. [passage omitted]

The next pre-agenda speaker was the deputy from Baft, who referred to world arrogance's cultural aggression against Islam and the Islamic revolution. He described old British colonialism as the major element in this process. In relation to this, he added: This savage aggression by world arrogance to the belief and faith of 1 billion Muslims is a serious struggle against a culture that builds human beings and that is the prime motive for all movements. [passage omitted]

The Baft deputy then referred to the EEC's decision to recall its ambassadors from Tehran, and said: Our great nation, which shed blood in the name of God for the sake of the revolution and which sacrificed everything to defend the flag of Islam, knew that the world devourers would cut all roads leading to peace. Today all of us are ready to sacrifice everything to implement the divine decree. Fortunate will be the one who will be honored with death in sending the corrupt entity [Salman Rushdie] to hell.

Mr Eslami also criticized our Foreign Ministry's diplomacy, saying: I express my great regret over the sick and weak diplomacy of our Foreign Ministry. I believe that there should be a serious reassessment of this ministry both in terms of its cadres and its policy. What step did the ministry take regarding Britain's inhuman act before the imam issued his decree? What is the foreign minister's justification for his recent meeting with the British foreign secretary? Now that the weakness and ineffectiveness of our foreign policy has been further proven in practice, the time has come for the foundations of a policy for the Islamic Republic's grandeur and independence to be laid.

Referring to the need to sever ties with old British colonialism, the speaker pointed to the need to seriously revise our economic relations with the EEC, and said: Reducing political relations without taking into consideration the level of economic exchanges and logical commercial relations speaks of the absence of a comprehensive view on the issues. In relation to this, it should be emphasized in a serious way that any agreement on the production of French industrial products, particularly the Peugeot car which was discussed in the press, should be prevented. [passage omitted]

The Baft deputy concluded: The leaders of the criminal Brtish Government, with all their wickedness and meanness against the sanctities of Islam, request the brave children of Islam in south Lebanon to free the British hostages. With this same disrespectful attitude, they ask the Islamic Republic to display self-restraint and to strive for a solution of this issue. But the brave men of Islam will definitely continue on their path, which is aimed at liberty, freedom, and struggle with the elements of oppression. We have chosen our path with the imam's decree. Our path is moving away from welfare and a consumer society. It is a path of tolerating difficulties for the sake of independence and for the sake of respect and the greatness of Islam.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Ha'erizadeh, the Birjand deputy. [passage omitted] Criticizing the diplomacy of the foreign minister, he said: As always, our Foreign Ministry's approach has been a reactive one. After the imam's decree was issued we suddenly heard cries. When the Foreign Ministry saw that the Shi'ite and Sunni societies of the world were insulted, it reacted with mourning and rage. Our Foreign Ministry displays so much weakness that Britain shows its irreverence. We shall see what the approach to the EEC will be. Basically speaking, our Foreign Ministry has not been successful in foreign policy, and furthermore, the face of our foreign policy abroad is different from and sometimes contrary to the imam's directives, as well as different from the criteria of the Islamic revolution that apply at home. The aristocratic life led by some of our ambassadors and charge d'affaires abroad, their very weak bonds with the deprived masses, and the receptions they host and attend all speak of a Western-style politicking which is not fruitful. Some of our ambassadors and charges at home have a very unsatisfactory and unethical approach to the people's deputies. With this kind of behavior, how can they have links with the workers, the laborers, and the deprived masses? One look at their colorful tables and foods that are bought with foreign exchange and at the expense of the Islamic Republic, as well as a glance at the fabric of the ministry, shows that most of them are Islamicized and Iranized pseudo-Westerners. Millions of dollars have been spent on employees and buildings abroad during these years of foreign currency problems and of difficulties stemming from the imposed war. The Majlis Foreign Policy Committee should look into these areas and see what these multi-million dollar expenses have brought in. If the reconstruction and maintenance of luxury homes and offices in the most luxurious residential areas of some of the world's largest cities can help in foreign policy, then others—both in the East and in the West—have more and can spend more.

The speaker then criticized the Yugoslav press for its approach and said: Yugoslavia is hosting our president these days. Is it right that its press behave in such a ruinous way toward Islam and the revolution? At such a time, is the insult to Islam, to the prophet, peace be upon him, and to our religious sanctities not an insult to one of our country's high-ranking leaders? Let us wait and see what the Foreign Ministry's policy toward that country's policies will be. [passage omitted]

Political, Women's Groups Legally Recognized

LD1303173289 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Two groups, one political the other a women's organization, have been officially recognized after the law on the formation of parties and social groups was implemented on December 31, according to a senior Interior Ministry Official.

The combatant clergymen, which include many 'ulema serving as ministers and as Majlis deputies, as well as the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Imam Khomeyni's daughter Zahra Mostafavi, have received legal permits.

Dr Mohammad Sadr, Interior Ministry's deputy for political and social affairs, was quoted by a daily KEYHAN reporter during a visit to Mashhad, capital of Khorasan Province. He said about 30 groups had picked up special registration forms.

The Combatant Clergymen was formed just before the third Majlis elections in April last year when they broke off from the Combatant 'Ulema Society over tactical differences. Its members include head of the Martyrs' Foundation and Deputy Speaker of the Majlis Mehdi Karrubi, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Prosecutor General Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha.

The women's society is mostly active in social and cultural areas. Last month it held its second international women's conference on the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

The parties law was suspended for more than six years until the Iraqi war ended in last August's ceasefire.

Party applications will be investigated and decided on by a committee of five—two members of the Majlis, and representatives of the Interior Ministry, the Supreme Judicial Council and the prosecutor general.

One of the main conditions for receiving a permit is the acceptance of the Constitution.

Other groups which have or are known to be preparing to submit their application are the Martyr Navab Safavi Party, the Islamic Jihad Party, the Freedom Movement of Iran, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Movement.

81 Drug Smugglers Hanged in Tehran, Other Cities

LD1003120289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Statement No 7 issued by Anti-Narcotics Squad on 10 March]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the almighty. In continuation of the decisive campaign against and punishment of narcotics smugglers and instigators of corruption, 81 more of these merchants of death who were sentenced to death by Islamic revolutionary courts were hanged from the gallows in Tehran and 26 other cities around the country today. Of this number, 27 were hanged in Tehran and 12 in the cities of Kerman, Rafsanjan, Zarand, Shahr-e Babak, Golbob, Ravar, Mohhn, Shahdad, and Ra'in, Kerman Province; 9 were hanged in Hamedan, Kabodar-Ahang, (Bamani), and Bahar, in Hamadan Province; 8 were hanged in Shiraz, 6 in Torbat-e Hewdariyeh, 4 in Esfahan, 4 in Jiroft and Kahnoj, 2 in Estahbanat and Fasah, 2 in Bandar-e 'Abbas, 2 in Neyshapur, 1 in Bakhtaran, 1 in Rasht, 1 in Qazvin, 1 in Arak, and 1 in Mashhad. As a whole, they were involved in the distribution of 5,107 kg of heroin, opium, hashish, and other narcotics, and some of them had previous criminal records in connection with armed robbery, highway robbery, manslaughter, weapons and ammunition contraband, as well as sexual offenses.

The antinarcotics squad once again warns the mercenary agents of colonialism and global arrogance who are involved in the smuggling and distribution of home-destroying substances, to relinquish their evil activities, and report to the law and order forces, give them all information they have in connection with professional smugglers, and cooperate in the arrest of the merchants of death before they are caught in the hands of justice. There is no doubt that the Islamic revolutionary courts do not stop short of any effort for the eradication of the corrupt elements and the narcotics distributors, and that they will issue and implement the divine law in their case. [passage omitted]

Large Narcotics, Gold, Carpets Haul Announced

LD1303204989 Tehran IRNA in English 1858 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Seven tons of narcotics, 350 kgs of gold bars and 2,500 precious hand-woven carpets were seized from smugglers this year, announced the Gendarmerie commander in a press conference Monday.

Over the past decade, said Brig-Gen. Mohammad Sohrabi some 300 Gendarmes have been martyred and 1,600 others disabled in the campaign against international drug traffickers.

He added that 237,376 kgs of narcotics were also discovered and seized by the Gendarmerie personnel over the same period.

Esfahan-Shahr-e Kord Bridge on Verge of Collapse

LD0903183989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A historical structure known as (Polkaleh), the only bridge linking the regions of Esfahan and Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, is on the verge of collapse because of a shortage of foreign currency and heavy traffic.

According to IRNA, signs of this bridge's deterioration and its ruined sections are quite apparent on its surface and the perpendicular supports. If the bridge continues to deteriorate, the main Esfahan-Shahr-e Kord route will be closed.

According to the same report, other sections of the bridge have also been split and all sorts of vehicles are still crossing it, totally unaware of the danger.

Pakistan

Punjab Chief Minister Gets Vote of Confidence

BK1303153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Punjab assembly, which began its session this afternoon in Lahore, gave a fresh vote of confidence to Punjab Chief Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif. The provincial law and parliamentary affairs minister, Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dareshak, tabled a motion in this connection after suspending relevant rules and procedures. One hundred and fifty-two members stood in favor of the motion. Earlier, members of the opposition led by their leader, Rana Shaukat Mahmud, staged a walkout, alleging that tabling the motion after suspending relevant rules was against proper procedures.

The house also passed a motion that expressed a vote of confidence in the speaker, Mian Mansur Ahmad Wattoo. One hundred and fifty-two members supported the motion.

Two members of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Mian Mahmudul Hassan Darsh and Dr Ziaullah Mangash, raising a point of privilege, drew the speaker's attention to the incident whereby a security officer of the assembly prevented them from entering the house. They alleged that they were stopped simply for being members of the PPP. The speaker assured the house that he has taken note of the incident and said that if the officer involved is proved wrong, strict action will be taken against him.

After receiving the vote of confidence, Nawaz Sharif addressed the assembly and thanked the members who expressed confidence in him. He emphasized that the provincial government will continue to serve the people. He added they would work for the protection of the Constitution and democracy in the country.

The house will meet again tomorrow evening.

Chairman Says Senate 'Cannot Be Dissolved'

BK1303154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has said that the Senate is a permanent body and it cannot be dissolved under any circumstances. In a press statement in Islamabad today, he said a change in the composition of the Senate can be brought about only through the election of half of the total number of its members after every 3 years.

U.S. Position on Atomic Program Examined

BK1103144589 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 26 Feb 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Assurance of the United States"]

[Text] The meeting between the prime minister of Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and the president of the United States, Mr George Bush, in the Japanese capital Tokyo on Friday has great significance because it was the first meeting of the elected leaders of these two countries. At the meeting both exchanged views on various regional and international issues, including the current situation in Afghanistan. After the meeting a spokesman of the Pakistan delegation said the American President assured the Pakistani prime minister that the United States will continue its full support to the democratically elected

Government of Pakistan. The U.S. President also reiterated his support for Pakistan's courageous position and efforts on the Afghanistan issue.

The prime minister's visit to Tokyo is very significant because besides attending the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito, Benazir Bhutto met some world leaders and statesmen who were present in Tokyo on that occasion. In our opinion, her meeting with the U.S. President has extraordinary significance. Their meeting took place at a time when the nonaligned status of Afghanistan has been restored and the Pakistan-India relations are also heading for the better.

Deep and friendly relations exist between Pakistan and the United States. Although these relations pass through various ups and downs and were disputed among various political circles at home, it is true that in Pakistan there has always been a soft spot for the United States. Thanks to the Afghan issue, a unique relationship has been established between the two countries. Certain circles say that U.S. interest in Pakistan is due to its unique geographic nature and once this [Afghan] issue is settled, U.S. interest will also come to an end. However, the United States has always stated that its close relations with Pakistan are not based on any interest or benefit but they are of a long standing nature and have a significant place in the U.S. foreign policy. If it is seen in against this backdrop, after the restoration of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan, the renewed expression of friendship and relationship with Pakistan is of utmost importance. By reiterating support to the elected democratic Government of Pakistan, George Bush has undoubtedly satisified those political circles that want to make Pakistan a strong and stable democratic state and to stabilize democracy here.

The expression of best wishes by the United States to the democratic Government of Pakistan is really a good omen, but the Government of Pakistan should bear in mind that the United States views Pakistan's peaceful atomic program with doubts and suspicions, and tries to put pressure on Pakistan from time to time. It does not maintain a uniform policy with Pakistan and India in this regard; it is one-sided. Maintaining Pakistan's friendly relations with the United States, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should also make efforts to make the United States adopt a realistic attitude toward the atomic programs of Pakistan and India and revise its previous position. We have confidence that being a leader of a people's elected government and a person of political wisdom, she will be successful in convincing the United States of this step.

Cultural Exchange Program Signed With DPRK

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[Text] Pakistan and the DPRK signed a cultural exchange program in Islamabad today. Under the terms of the program, cultural delegations will visit each other's country, and books, paintings, and handicraft exhibitions will be organized.

Cabinet Approves Narcotics Control Division

BK1303155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet has approved creation of a narcotics control division for effectively preventing the spread of narcotics use in the country. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto presided over the cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi today. [passage omitted]

Abortive Attempt on Altaf Hussain's Life Noted

BK1003154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] chairman, Azim Ahmad Tariq, said that armed men who entered the house of Altaf Hussain in a suspicious manner have been handed over to the police and the concerned authorities have been informed of this incident. He said it appears to be a plot to create a serious law and order problem in the province, and it failed.

At the news conference the MQM chief appealed to the people to maintain law and order and to foil the attempts of antisocial elements.

The Sind chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, has expressed concern over the alleged attempt on the life of Altaf Hussain last night. While talking to MQM Chairman Azim Ahmad Tariq on the telephone today, he said he has directed the administration to investigate the case and to take punitive action against the criminals.

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